	uiti-i age	NL I OWEI IIIC. 2013 GRA
Pag		Page 3
1 (9:05 a.m.)	1 MS. I	
2 JANUARY 15, 2013	2 A	. Yes, I can. No executive or manager would
3 CHAIRMAN:	3	earn anything more if the return on equity was
4 Q. Before we start, I think there's a preliminary	4	set at 10.4 percent. Newfoundland Power's
5 matter we got to deal with, Madam Solicitor.	5	senior management salaries and benefits are
6 MS. GLYNN:	6	established relative to market benchmarks.
7 Q. It's just a housekeeping item, Mr. Chairman.	7	These benchmarks do not consider the company's
8 Order No. PU 43 2009, which is the last GRA	8	allowed or earned returns on equity. The only
9 Order, we are going to enter that as a consent	9	part of Newfoundland Power's senior management
10 exhibit.	10	compensation program which relates to return
11 CHAIRMAN:	11	on equity is the earnings target used for the
12 Q. I believe we're back to Madam Perry, Mr.	12	short term incentive for the STI planned. The
13 Kelly, and I believe you are in charge.	13	earnings target used for STI purposes by the
14 KELLY, Q.C.:	14	company has always reflected the regulated
15 Q. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.	15	return on equity approved from time to time by
16 CHAIRMAN:	16	this Board. If Newfoundland Power achieves
17 Q. Insofar as anybody is ever in charge.	17	the regulated return on equity approved by the
18 MS. JOCELYN PERRY - EXAMINATION BY KELLY, Q.C.:	18	Board, then its executives and managers will
19 Q. I assume I only speak for this piece.	19	achieve 100 percent of the target for earnings
Ultimately, the control is in the Board. Mr.	20	within the STI program. Establishing the
21 Chairman, there were a couple of questions	21	return on equity target for the STI plan to
that arose the last day with respect to	22	reflect the return on equity approved by the
executive compensation, so before I turn Ms.	23	Board recognizes that the return on equity
Perry over for cross-examination, I'm just	24	allowed by the Board by regulatory purposes is
going to go back and deal with those couple of	25	not a guaranteed return. The earnings target
Pag	re 2	Page 4
questions. Ms. Perry, I understand you are	1	in the STI plan exists to incent senior
the Vice President at Newfoundland Power wh	1	management to achieve the return on equity
3 has responsibility for human resource matters?	3	approved by the Board for rate making
4 MS. PERRY:	4	purposes. So if this Board approved
5 A. Yes, I am.	5	Newfoundland Power's proposed return on equity
6 KELLY, Q.C.:	6	of 10.4 percent for 2013, the company's STI
7 Q. And you're familiar with the structure of the	7	earnings target will reflect a regulated
8 company's executive compensation program?	8	return on equity of 10.4 percent for 2013. If
9 MS. PERRY:	9	the company earns 10.4 percent return on
10 A. Yes, it's part of my responsibility to prepare	10	equity, then the STI plan would indicate that
the materials for Newfoundland Power's Board		100 percent of the earnings target has been
of Directors, which relate to compensation for	12	met. If on the other hand, the Board allows a
the company's executive.	13	return on equity for 2013 of 9.5 percent, then
14 KELLY, Q.C.:	14	the earnings STI earnings target will reflect
15 Q. Now there was a question from the consumer	1	a return on equity of 9.5 percent. If the
advocate. We'll find it on page 82 at lines 6	16	company earns 9.5 percent for 2013, then the
to 13 of the transcript, and Mr. Ludlow was	17	STI plan would indicate that 100 percent of
asked - page 82, if you'll go down a little	18	the earnings target has been met. Since the
bit further. There you go. Mr. Ludlow was	19	earnings target used in the STI plan reflects
20 asked by the consumer advocate what it would	1	a return on equity approved by the Board for
21 mean in terms of extra compensation for	20 21	regulatory purposes, senior management will be
22 executives and managers if the Board were to	21 22	no better or worse off if the Board were to
122 CACCULIVES and managers if the Board were to	44	no better of worse off if the Doald were to
23 allow the 10.4 percent return on equity	23	establish a return on equity for rate making
allow the 10.4 percent return on equity	23	establish a return on equity for rate making
23 allow the 10.4 percent return on equity 24 proposed by Newfoundland Power in this 25 Application. Can you address that question?	23 24 25	establish a return on equity for rate making purposes of 10.4 percent, or some other amount. The Board permits only the target STI

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1	plan amount to be included in the reve	nue :	1 CHAIRMAN:
2	requirement. Any amounts paid in exce	ss of	2 Q. Okay.
3	STI targets are effectively funded by the	e :	3 MS. PERRY:
4	shareholder.	4	4 A. As the value of the stock options.
5	KELLY, Q.C.:	4	5 CHAIRMAN:
6	Q. Okay. Now next there was a question of	or a	6 Q. Sure, okay.
7	discussion that took place with the Chair	of	7 KELLY, Q.C.:
8	the Board. If we go to page 141, Chris,	at 8	8 Q. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The witness is
9	line 23 - there we go. There was a discuss	sion	9 available for cross-examination.
10	with Mr. Ludlow about the amount of ex-	ecutive 10	0 CHAIRMAN:
11	compensation which was paid for by the	e rate	1 Q. Mr. Johnson, sir.
12	payers of Newfoundland Power. Do rate	payers 12	2 MS. JOCELYN PERRY - EXAMINATION BY MR. JOHNSON:
13	fund the total compensation paid to) 13	3 MR. JOHNSON:
14	Newfoundland Power executives?	14	Q. Ms. Perry, Newfoundland Power, I'm sure you're
15	MS. PERRY:	15	s aware, would have to go back quite a while
16	A. No, they do not. At Newfoundland Powe	r's last	6 over its books to find a year where it did not
17	general rate hearing in 2009, Karl Abou	d of	earn its allowed return, correct?
18	HAY Group indicated that the company's	total 18	8 MS. PERRY:
19	compensation included four key compo	onents.	9 A. I think that's a fair statement, yes.
20	That would be the salary, STI, long term	m 20	20 MR. JOHNSON:
21	incentives, and benefits. It is Newfoundl	and 21	Q. And I believe 1995, some 17/18 years ago would
22	Power's total compensation which	is 22	have been the last year, is that correct?
23	benchmarked to the 50th percentile of	the 23	23 MS. PERRY:
24	Canadian commercial industrial gro	up. 24	A. I'd have to check that, but around that time.
25	Newfoundland Power's rate payers have	never 25	25 MR. JOHNSON:
		Page 6	Page 8
1	paid the cost of Newfoundland Pow	_	Q. Around that time, and just to - if we could
2	executive's long term incentives. The cos	II	pull up CA-NP-381, in that regard. In this
3	these incentives which are in the form		question the company was asked in part, (a) to
4	options to buy common shares of Fortis		4 provide the allowed ROE and actual ROE earned
5	are borne by Fortis Inc. In 2011, the val		by Newfoundland Power since 1990. I take it
6	of these stock options were approxima		6 you probably would have had a hand in
7	160,000 for Mr. Ludlow, 53,000 for Mr.	•	7 preparing this response?
8	and 48,000 for each of myself and Mr. A		8 MS. PERRY:
9	Given that Fortis Inc. contributes to this		9 A. Yes, I've seen this response.
10	extent, it is clear that the company's rate		0 MR. JOHNSON:
11	payers do not fund the total compensation		
12	to Newfoundland Power's executives.	_	•
13	level of shareholder contributions to		• •
14	executive compensation is consistent with		-
15	which has existed for Newfoundland Po	II	5 MS. PERRY:
16	well over a decade.	16	
17	KELLY, Q.C.:	17	
18	Q. Thank you, Ms. Perry. Does that conclud		
19	additional testimony?		9 MR. JOHNSON:
20	MS. PERRY:	20	
21	A. Yes, it does.	21	•
	CHAIRMAN:	22	
23	Q. But those were dollars, not shares?	23	-
24	MS. PERRY:	24	
25	A. That's dollars, that's dollars.	25	

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1 MS. PERRY:	base over the last several years?
2 A. Yes, I would agree. I'm just saying that -	2 MS. PERRY:
but the actual ROE's are within the allowed	3 A. I'm not sure I understand your question, Mr.
4 range of return for Newfoundland Power.	4 Johnson.
5 MR. JOHNSON:	5 MR. JOHNSON:
6 Q. Right, and if we could turn up Grant	6 Q. If we could go to page 21 of the Grant
7 Thornton's report, the financial consultant's	7 Thornton report. Grant Thornton - if we could
8 report that was prepared for the Board and	8 go even a little bit further, so we can see
9 reviewed this Application. I believe that	9 the years on the bottom. Grant Thornton has
would be Consent # 2, in particular, page 19.	graphed - provides a graphic illustration on
11 MS. GLYNN:	the return on average common equity and
12 Q. If you'll go under the Board expert evidence,	average rate base over the period from 2007 to
13 Chris, expert evidence for - there you go.	13 2014?
What was the page reference again, Tom, Mr.	14 MS. PERRY:
Johnson?	15 A. Yes, I see that.
16 MR. JOHNSON:	16 MR. JOHNSON:
17 Q. Page 19.	17 Q. And what I'm bringing your attention to, and
18 MR. KIRBY:	for those who are looking at the computer
19 Q. 19.	generated, is that the pink line is the return
20 (9:15 a.m.)	on average rate base and the blue line is the
21 MR. JOHNSON:	21 return on average common equity. The
22 Q. And just scroll down a little bit further.	proposition I'm putting to you is that your
23 I'm just bringing your attention to the	proposed or your company's proposed ROE for
section on return on rate base, lines 21 to	24 2013 and 2014 are out of line with the spreads
25 28, and in particular the chart which shows	25 that we have seen over the last - well, to
Page 10	Page 12
the actual return on average rate base, the	1 2007 in this table. Would you agree with
2 upper end of the range set by the Board, the	that?
lower end of the range, and so since this	3 MS. PERRY:
4 Board heard the last GRA in 2009, the company	4 A. I will agree that the difference is more.
5 has earned above the midpoint of the range of	5 However, the 2013 and 2014 is based on the
6 return on rate base in 2010, right?	6 proposed 10.4 that we've put forward in this
7 MS. PERRY:	7 Application. I mean, every so many number of
8 A. Yes, that is correct.	years Newfoundland Power evaluates all their
9 MR. JOHNSON:	9 costs and cost of capital is one of those
10 Q. And they earned - the company earned to the	10 costs that we evaluate.
upper limit in 2011?	11 MR. JOHNSON:
12 MS. PERRY:	12 Q. But there'd be no doubt that if this Board
13 A. That is correct.	were to accede to the company's request of a
14 MR. JOHNSON:	10.4 percent return on common equity in 2013
15 Q. So 8.14 in a range of 7.78 to 8.14, and the	and higher again in 2014, that this would be
company's expected to earn again within the	the result of the spreads between the return
17 range in 2012?	on rate base and return on equity?
18 MS. PERRY:	18 MS. PERRY:
19 A. Yes, that is correct.	19 A. Yes, that is correct.
20 MR. JOHNSON:	20 MR. JOHNSON:
21 Q. And, Ms. Perry, would you agree with me that	21 Q. And based on this graphic presentation, if
Newfoundland Power's proposed 2013 and 2014	22 that result were to happen, it would produce
return on equity of 10.4 and 10.5 are out of	an anomalous result relative to what we've
line with the spreads between Newfoundland	seen since 2007?
25 Power's return on equity and return on rate	25 MS. PERRY:

January 15, 2013 Page 13 Page 15 the proposal that we've put forth has been put A. I'm not sure I'd describe it as such. It's a 1 1 2 factor of how out rate base is growing and the 2 forth from expert witnesses, and it's in line mathematical difference, shall I say, between with maintaining Newfoundland Power's 3 3 rate of return on rate base and return on financial integrity, and that's good for 4 4 average common equity, but, you know, what we 5 5 customers. are here to deliberate is a fair and 6 MR. JOHNSON: 6 7 reasonable return on equity for Newfoundland Q. Okay, and so part of it is driven - part of 7 the fairness equation is driven by the fact 8 Power and what that translates into a return 8 on rate base, it will fall out from that. that your expert witnesses have recommended 9 10 MR. JOHNSON: 10 the number, I take it? Q. Ms. Perry, the 10.4 percent request, and 10.5 11 MS. PERRY: 11 percent for 2014, you'll acknowledge that 12 12 A. Certainly, yes. would be the highest in Canada. If you were 13 MR. JOHNSON: 13 given that, that would be the highest, right, Q. And part of it is driven by the fact that you 14 14 for a regulated utility? 15 think it puts you - well, in fact, in excess 15 16 MS. PERRY: 16 of where Fortis BC is? A. I believe so, and I would like to make a 17 17 MS. PERRY: correction. The proposal was 10.4 percent for 18 18 A. No, the proposal was based certainly on the both 2013 and 2014. expert's proposal. That's first and foremost. 19 19 20 MR. JOHNSON: 20 MR. JOHNSON: Q. Okay, and Mr. Ludlow, in his evidence Q. Okay, and what's the tie in to Fortis BC then? 21 21 22 indicated that - he stated that the ROE must 22 MS. PERRY: be fair to Newfoundland Power and to the 23 23 A. I'm simply saying that if I had to look across customer. You were here when he said that? the country and look at what other 24 24 distribution electric utilities are earning, 25 MS. PERRY: 25 Page 14 Page 16 A. Yes, I was. and other distribution companies across 1 1 2 MR. JOHNSON: 2 Canada, I'm saying that there's one utility in Q. And I would like for you to fully explain how British Columbia that's currently earning 9.9 3 3 a request to have 10.4 percent return on percent. 4 4 equity, being the highest in the country, 5 5 MR. JOHNSON: fully explain how that request should be Q. And you were here yesterday, and I understand 6 6 7 considered to be fair for your customers? 7 that Ms. McShane confirmed that that company 8 MS. PERRY: 8 is not a distribution company, but it's a A. Mr. Chairman, as I said earlier, we go through vertically integrated company? 9 9 this process every few years where we evaluate 10 MS. PERRY: 10 the cost of capital for Newfoundland Power, 11 11 A. Fortis BC Energy or Fortis BC Electric? and evidence is brought before this Board by 12 12 MR. JOHNSON: expert witnesses that lay out an appropriate 13 13 Q. Fortis BC Electric. and fair return for Newfoundland Power. We've 14 14 MS. PERRY: 15 engaged two experts. Both experts have A. Yes. indicated that the range of return is 10.4 or 16 16 MR. JOHNSON: 10.5. The 10.4, yes, I appreciate that it may 17 17 Q. Is that the 9.9 that you're referring to? be the highest. When we look across the 18 18 MS. PERRY: 19 country, I do look at Fortis BC, they're A. Yes. currently at 9.9 percent, and certainly the 20 20 MR. JOHNSON:

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23 MS. PERRY:

25 MR. JOHNSON:

company?

A. I believe so, yes.

Q. Yeah, and that's a vertically integrated

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10.4 percent does set Newfoundland Power up

with respect to its financial matrix and its

ratings that fall from it simply support the

rating that we have today. So I think that

financial profile, such that the credit

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		Page 17	7		Page
1	Q.	And in your mind, would it be relevant for the	1	MS. P	ERRY:
2		Board to consider the difference between a	2	A.	Exhibit 6, and Exhibit 3, I guess, we'll need
3		vertically integrated company and a	3		two of them. If you look at Exhibit 6 and you
4		distribution poles and wires company like	4		look at lines 34, 35, and 36, under the
5		Newfoundland Power?	5		proposed for 2013, you'll see that the
6	MS. PI	ERRY:	6		interest coverage is 2.6, and that would be up
7	A.	I look at this pretty simplistically when I	7		from 2.3 in 2012.
8		compare Newfoundland Power to other businesses	8	MR. J	OHNSON:
9		across Canada. I mean, I'd look at Fortis BC	9	Q.	Uh-hm.
10		Electric, and they're a regulated utility,	10	MS. P	ERRY:
11		they have regulated assets, they are similar -	11	A.	You'll see the CFO to interest to be 3.6
12		well, they are bigger than us. They have cost	12		times. This is up from 3.2. Then you'll see
13		of service regulation, they have reserve	13		the CFO to debt percentage to be 18.3, and
14		mechanisms, such as Newfoundland Power, so I	14		that's up from 15.7.
15		evaluate companies on that basis. I'll leave	15	MR. J	OHNSON:
16		it up to Ms. McShane and Dr. Vander Weide with	16	Q.	Uh-hm.
17		respect to comparable companies to include for	17	MS. P	ERRY:
18		comparison of fair returns for Newfoundland	18	A.	And then you'll notice that they're somewhat
19		Power.	19		similar, but slight decrease in the CFO to
20	MR. JO	OHNSON:	20		debt as you go out into 2014 down to 16.4,
21	Q.	So when Newfoundland Power states in its reply	21		over in the last column. When I look at the
22		to one of the PUB's staff question about who	22		proposed matrix here, Moody's has indicated
23		you compare it to, did you have a hand in	23		that the CFO to interest range should be in
24		preparing that response?	24		the low 3's. So the proposal is 3.4 - 3.6 and
25	MS. PI	ERRY:	25		3.4.
		Page 18	3		Page
1	A.	Yes, I'm familiar with that response, yes.	1	MR. J	OHNSON:

2 MR. JOHNSON:

- 3 Q. And when you said that Newfoundland Power 4 would be comparable with Fortis BC, you want to be very clear that you're only saying that 5
- 6 because you're both regulated utilities, you
- 7 both are under cost of service, but it was a
- 8 pretty high level assessment?

MS. PERRY:

- A. And it would be, Mr. Chairman. I mean, I'm 10 11 not privy to all of the operational day to day 12 runnings of Fortis BC, so, yes, it is at a
- high level. 13

14 MR. JOHNSON:

- 15 Q. And in terms of your reference to what 10.4 percent would do to your company's matrix, 16
- 17 credit matrix, etc., you would confirm that
- 18 that would bring your matrix up quite
- 19 considerably higher than what they are in
- 20 2012, for instance?
- 21 MS. PERRY:
- 22 A. Well, if I - if we turn to Exhibit - I'll get
- 23 the exhibit number.
- 24 MR. JOHNSON:
- 25 Q. Three?

- - o. Uh-hm.
- 3 MS. PERRY:
- A. And CFO to debt, the range that they provide 4
- is 15 to 17, and I see here that by the end of 5
- 2014, we'll be at 16.4. So we're within the 6
- 7 ranges that -

8 MR. JOHNSON:

- 9 Q. And I intend to have a discussion with you
- about Moody's, but my point is you have spoken 10
 - about part of the reason why a rate payer
- 12 would consider your request on equity fair is
- because of its impact on financial matrix and 13
- 14 financial integrity of the company, but, Ms.
- Perry, it's beyond dispute, is it not, that 15
- over the period from 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 16
- 17 2011, that the financial integrity of
- Newfoundland Power has been very much intact, 18
- 19 correct?
- 20 MS. PERRY:
- A. Yes, it has, I would confirm that.
- 22 MR. JOHNSON:
- 23 Q. At significantly lower ROEs than what you're
- 24 putting forward in this case?
- 25 MS. PERRY:

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		Pag
1	A.	Yes, I would agree that the financial
2		integrity has been maintained. Certainly
3		during the last rate case, there were concerns
4		about our decreasing matrix in the 2009
5		hearing, and coming out of that hearing the
6		matrix that you see in 2010, if you go to
7		Exhibit 3 - so if you go down to lines 37, 38,
8		and 39, you will note that - and 2010 is a
9		good reflection of how we were set up, I
10		guess, from a financial matrix perspective
11		coming out of the last rate case, and so the
12		interest coverage was 2.4, the CFO to interest
13		was 3.4, and the CFO to debt was 17.6. So
14		those matrix itself is not materially
15		different than the matrix that we're proposing
16		here in this Application.

17 MR. JOHNSON:

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18 Q. But Ms. Perry, you're aware that return on equity has got to be fair to equity holder, 19 and you're well familiar with the proposition 20 that we don't key off a fair return on equity 21 22 to a particular matrix, do we?

23 MS. PERRY:

A. That is true, yes.

25 MR. JOHNSON:

Page 22

Q. In fact, it would be not appropriate, would it, to tie or allow ourselves to determine what a fair ROE was by what a particular credit matrix would result from that ROE? 5 MS. PERRY:

A. I disagree with that concept. I think that 6 7 one of the requirements of a fair return is 8 that it should maintain a company's financial 9 integrity. So I think while debt rating agencies are not going to come out and say 10 11 what a fair return should be for an equity holder, the return does matter to the matrix. 12 13 The matrix matter to the financial integrity 14 and that is one of the requirements of a fair 15 return.

16 (9:30 a.m.)

17 MR. JOHNSON:

Q. Let's put it this way, Ms. Perry, if for the 18 19 sake of argument we could conclude that a return based on Newfoundland Power's profile 20 as compared to a company that has a similar 21 22 profile that we wouldn't have to make all sorts of adjustments to, if we could say an 23 24 equity investor in this company deserves 8 25 percent, and they deserve 8 percent in that

e 21 Page 23

one, would we - would we then do an extra step

2 and say, oh, yes, but, you know, we really

have to adjust Newfoundland Power's 8 which 3

would be fair to the equity investor, we'd 4

have to adjust that up because we've got to 5

cover off these matrix. That's not your 6

proposition, is it? 7

8 MS. PERRY:

A. My understanding, Mr. Chairman, is that one of the requirements of a fair return is that it should maintain the company's financial integrity, and if it was felt that the financial matrix of Newfoundland Power were not sufficient to maintain that, then I think the two are connected.

16 MR. JOHNSON:

Q. And would - under that logic, though, would the equity holder in Newfoundland Power be better off than they really ought to be, would they? Wouldn't that follow, because you're saying to the equity investor in Newfoundland Power, look, if we're looking at two equal companies that we don't have to make adjustments to, and you deserve 8, but, you know, we've got to do something with the

Page 24

financial matrix, so we're going to give you more, is that the proper response?

3 MS. PERRY:

A. I think it is.

5 MR. JOHNSON:

Q. Okay. 6

7 MS. PERRY:

A. In the fact that if Newfoundland Power were to 8 jeopardize its financial integrity, and let's 9 just say be downgraded, that in essence will 10 11 cost consumers a lot more and it certainly - I can't see how that would benefit the company 12 13 or the customers in the long run, and again now unless I'm mistaken, my understanding is 14 that one of the requirements of a fair return 15 is that it should maintain a company's 16 17 financial integrity.

18 MR. JOHNSON:

Q. Yes, but isn't one of the other principles of 19 a fair return that the return be comparable to 20 an equal risk company, or to an investment 21 22 that you can get in a comparable investment? Isn't that part of the fair return too? 23

24 MS. PERRY:

25 A. Certainly it is, but I think they are related,

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they come together. There's more than	one 1	consideration of the determination of a fair
2 requirement of a fair return, from what	I 2	return.
3 understand.	3 MR	a. JOHNSON:
4 MR. JOHNSON:	4	Q. Okay, but you would not consider, I take it,
5 Q. And I'm aware of that, but what I'm tryin	ng to 5	that it would be appropriate for an equity
6 dial in on, is it Newfoundland Power	.'s 6	investor in Newfoundland Power to get a return
7 proposition that we might have to tink	ter 7	over and above what an equity investor in a
8 upward with what would otherwise be co	nsidered 8	comparable risk enterprise should get just by
9 a fair return on common equity in order	r to 9	merit of the fact that we've got to concern
meet a credit matrix, in order to preserve	the 10	ourselves with credit matrix for Newfoundland
financial integrity, and if so, would that r	not 11	Power?
give an equity investor in Newfoundland	Power 12 MS	. PERRY:
an advantage or a benefit over an investo	r - a 13	A. I think it's a fair observation that a utility
common equity investor in a like compar	ny? 14	with similar risk, an equity holder should get
15 MS. PERRY:	15	a return on comparable risk utilities, yes,
16 A. I'm disagreeing with, I guess, the conce	ept 16	but if the return is in some way jeopardizing
that - I think the two go hand in hand. I	f 17	the financial integrity of the company, I
the utility is awarded a fair return, it	18	think it all has to be considered in the
should preserve its financial integrity. I	19	determination of a fair return.
20 mean, I don't know of a situation where a	at the 20 MR	a. JOHNSON:
end of the day - if a return was issued an	nd 21 (Q. I'm going to move on, but I just need to
7.5 percent was viewed as a fair return as	5 Dr. 22	really understand this point, would you ever
Booth's proposal is, and the financial ma	trix 23	suggest, though, that if this Board were
were below that indicated by Moody's	s as 24	satisfied that, say, 7 percent is a fair
25 acceptable, once that order were granted	d by 25	return on common equity for Newfoundland
	Page 26	Page 28
the Board, we would have to take a hard	look 1	Power, would they ever - should they ever
2 at that because we're not preserving the	ne 2	entertain, in your view, giving you, say, 8
3 financial integrity of Newfoundland Pow	er, and 3	percent or maybe 8.5 if it preserved what you
4 for me the two would have to go hand in	hand. 4	would term as the financial integrity of the
5 MR. JOHNSON:	5	company?
6 Q. Well, let's flip it the other way then. Wh	at 6 MS	. PERRY:
7 if we said all Moody's requires is "x" i	n 7	A. I think it's one of the standards of a fair
8 terms of cashflow, interest coverage, and	the 8	return standard that it should maintain the
9 other matrix, and if we arrived at a return	on 9	financial integrity of Newfoundland Power and
equity that produced - that covered us off	f in 10	it should be a consideration, yes.
terms of what Moody's was concerned		a. JOHNSON:
well, then that might mean that equit	•	Q. So never mind a consideration, you would
investors in Newfoundland Power could		suggest that if it was necessary to preserve
with a lot less than what they're asking for	or. 14	financial integrity, that an equity investor
15 Would that be fair?	15	who otherwise would be entitled to 7, should
16 MS. PERRY:	16	probably get 8 or 8.5?
17 A. No, that would not be fair.		. PERRY:
18 MR. JOHNSON:		A. Yes, I do.
19 Q. Okay, because I thought I was just asking	g you 19 MR	a. JOHNSON:
20 the corollary of that.	20	Q. Okay. I just need to understand your position
21 MS. PERRY:	21	on the point. We heard yesterday from Ms.
22 A. No, I guess - so I can explain, I believe the	nat 22	McShane that she regards that the cost of
a utility is entitled to a fair return, and	23	equity for Newfoundland Power has declined
that fair return should maintain the finance		from the last General Rate Application.
integrity of the company, and it should b	e a 25	You've heard that evidence?

MS. PERRY: 2 A. Yes. I did. 3 MR. JOHNSON: 4 Q. And you indicated that you hire advisors and 5 experts, etc., so I expect that you accept 6 that judgment? 7 MS. PERRY: 8 A. Yes. I respect the expert's opinion, yes. 9 MR. JOHNSON: 10 Q. And the 9 percent return that Newfoundland 11 Power carned or was allowed in its 2010 GRA, 12 was that a fair and just return? You just 13 brought us through the table which indicated 14 that it improved matrix and that sort of 15 thing. Was that a fair and just return for 16 Newfoundland Power? 17 MS. PERRY: 18 A. Well, the Board decides on what a fair return 19 is for Newfoundland Power, and the way I see 10 it simply is that once the evidence has been 11 heard, and I respect that there's evidence 12 brought forward on both sides to deliberate 13 guess, fundamentally, we have only a couple of 14 guess, fundamentally, we have only a couple of 15 is what we've done, or object, and in that 16 case we accepted, but in terms of what is 17 defence to be fair. I'm going to let the Board 18 decembed to be fair, I'm going to let the Board 19 is what we've done, or object, and in that 19 guess, fundamentally, we have only a couple of 20 of the Board, but does, Newfoundland Power have 21 of the Board, but does, Newfoundland Power have 22 of the Board, but does, Newfoundland Power have 23 is an appropriate return is. 10 MS. PERRY: 11 O. I understand, object, and in that 12 decembed to be fair. Tim going to let the Board 13 guess, fundamentally, we have only a couple of 24 deemed to be fair. Tim going to let the Board 25 decembed to be fair. Tim going to let the Board 26 decembed to be fair. Tim going to let the Board 27 A. No, Mr. Chairman, I don't feel I can make that 28 descreted to be fair. Tim going to let the fload to the prevince of the Machana appropriate and fair 29 respected to be fair. Tim going to let the fload to the prevince of the Machana and protect on the fair of the context of the fair of		
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·		
,		
25 MR JOHNSON: 25 formula, as it believed financial market	_	

Page 37 Page 39 more along the line of compared to others, 1 1 MR. JOHNSON: 2 correct? Q. He says, "We have performed very well in the 3 MS. PERRY: past two or three years, and it has not had 3 A. That's exactly what I said, yes. any negative impact". So is there a distance 4 between you and Mr. Ludlow on this point? 5 MR. JOHNSON: 5 Q. Okay. Mr. Ludlow indicated at page 45 of the 6 MS. PERRY: transcript - I'm just looking for it now. I A. No-7 7 was asking him that question at line 10, "And 8 8 MR. JOHNSON: just to be clear, in 2001, when the company Q. He seems to be saying that the 2011 results 9 10 made - just made slightly more than what you 10 were good. He characterized 2011, "We are projected to make in 2012, that was a fair performed very well". 11 11 return in 2011 and preserved the financial 12 12 MS. PERRY: integrity of the company", and Mr. Ludlow A. Mr. Chairman, I would interpret, and I'm not 13 13 answers, "2011", and I say, "Yes", and he one to speak for Mr. Ludlow, so - but in terms 14 14 of how I would interpret this, "We performed said, "Our return as stated, as I said 15 15 16 earlier, was whatever I - what we were saying 16 very well", we did perform very well. We had earlier, it was reasonable at that point in an allowed return in 2011 of 8.38, and we 17 17 time, yes". So you're drawing a distinction 18 18 earned at the top of our range that year, yes. between the allowed and what was achieved, but So I would take that as meaning we performed 19 19 very well in that particular year. That you would consider what Mr. Ludlow said to be 20 20 accurate, that what was earned in 2011 was doesn't necessarily translate to me that we 21 21 22 reasonable and fair? 22 agreed it was necessarily a fair return that we were starting with, which was 8.38. 23 MS. PERRY: 23 A. I'm not sure that's what Mr. Ludlow meant by 24 MR. JOHNSON: 24 that. I believe it had to do with preserving Q. Okay. You were here when Ms. McShane 25 Page 38 Page 40 the financial integrity of the company. testified yesterday. Could you indicate, 1 1 2 MR. JOHNSON: 2 you're the CFO, about financing flotation costs - could you fill us in, or fill me in at Q. Could I turn you to page 41. The question I 3 3 asked Mr. Ludlow right after saying good least, on that concept? 4 4 5 morning to him, "You talked in your direct 5 MS. PERRY: with Mr. Kelly about Newfoundland Power's A. Well, I think I would be out of step if I 6 6 returns over the last few years since the rate 7 7 tried to interpret the adjustments that are 8 case, but I take it that you would confirm, 8 made to Ms. McShane's or Dr. Vander Weide's Mr. Ludlow, would you not, that Newfoundland cost of equity flotation costs, and I 9 9 Power itself believes that its financial understand both of them are different for 10 10 11 performance since the last general rate 11 various reasons, but Ms. McShane explains what Application through to 2012 has been the flotation costs are in her evidence, and 12 12 absolutely consistent with the company's 13 13 I'm not comfortable speaking to the nature of financial integrity", and Mr. Ludlow says, "I 14 14 those costs. would agree, Mr. Chairman, that we have 15 15 MR. JOHNSON:

performed very well in the past two or three years and it has not had a negative impact on 17

the financial integrity of the company". I

took it to mean in 2011 you performed very

well.

16

17

21 MS. PERRY:

A. I would agree that Mr. Ludlow's response is agreeing that the financial performance in 24 2011 is consistent with maintaining the financial integrity of the company. A. In simply comparing Ms. McShane's evidence?

Q. So you're not in a position to say whether

flotation costs are higher than they were in

21 MR. JOHNSON:

19 MS. PERRY:

25 MS. PERRY:

18

Q. Well, I was just interested generally about
 this flotation cost that gets referred to, and
 you can't offer anything on that?

2009, for instance?

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	Page 41	Page 43
1 A. No, I cannot.	1	asks him or herself "did I earn the allowed
2 MR. JOHNSON:	2	2 ROE?" and that's made on an annual that's
3 Q. Okay. Could I refer you to page 315 of	the 3	an annual determination.
4 materials of the company, Ms. Perry, an	d at 4	4 MS. PERRY:
5 line 20, the company states that, "Risk is	an 5	5 A. Yes, I believe it is.
6 assessment of the capability of an enterpr	rise 6	5 MR. JOHNSON:
7 to recover its investment, as well as earn	a 7	Q. Right, and we've -
8 return on that investment, and for regulat	ted 8	8 MS. PERRY:
9 utilities such as Newfoundland Power, ris	sk is 9	A. But I will qualify that you don't make
generally considered to have busines	ss 10	investment decisions based on your ability to
regulatory and financial elements", and	the 11	only earn within one year.
first line about the capability of an	12	2 MR. JOHNSON:
enterprise to recover its investment as we	ell 13	Q. No, no, but let's put it this way, as we've
as earn a return on that investment, Dr	14	seen from the earlier RFI reply this morning,
Booth, my expert witness, he says - he de	efines 15	going back to, I think it was 1996,
risk as the probability of incurring harm a	and 16	Newfoundland Power has never failed to earn
he interprets this in the short run as failing	g 17	its allowed ROE, right?
to earn the allowed ROE, and the long run		8 MS. PERRY:
has the uncertainty of recovering the	19	A. That's correct.
shareholder's investment in rape base. W	ould 20	MR. JOHNSON:
you accept that description as being	21	Q. And would that demonstrate to you Newfoundland
reasonable?	22	Power's low risk nature?
23 MS. PERRY:	23	3 MS. PERRY:
24 A. I think I would look at the ability to earn		4 A. No. I would make the observation that
return on the investment and to recover	the 25	Newfoundland Power has made earned within
	Page 42	Page 44
investment both as long term risk, because	use 1	its allowed range of return, which tells me
2 once you invest in a company such	as 2	that there's a couple of things happening.
3 Newfoundland Power, you are into it for	r the 3	One is that we are set up appropriately as a
4 long term. So I think I see it both as long	g 4	utility with a reasonable opportunity to earn
5 term.	5	our return and secondly, that we're actually
6 MR. JOHNSON:	6	executing upon how we're structured and we're
7 Q. But surely what Dr. Booth defines as t	the 7	, ,
8 probability of incurring harm in the short		
9 as failing to earn the allowed ROE, that we	ould 9	
be risk, right?	10	ε , ε
11 MS. PERRY:	11	2
12 A. Certainly.	12	
13 MR. JOHNSON:	13	2 1
Q. And that would be not long term risk, the		
15 would be short term risk, wouldn't it?	15	5 MR. JOHNSON:
16 MS. PERRY:	16	1 11 1
17 A. I guess it depends, Mr. Chairman, how y		
looking at it. I look at the risk from an	18	2
equity perspective. If they're investing the		9 MS. PERRY:
company, they're into it for the long haul		•
so I look at the risk of earning a return ear		Ç ,
22 and every year.	22	* · · · · ·
23 MR. JOHNSON:	23	•
Q. And that's my point. Each and every year		
25 know, there's the investor, equity inves	stor 25	and just it provides Newfoundland Power with

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		Page 45		Page 47
1	that opportunity to earn a fair and reasonal	ole	1	capital program. And I'll bring the Board
2	return, which is good for Newfoundland F	Power	2	back to 2010 when Igor actually happened and
3	and certainly good for Newfoundland Po	wer's	3	yes, we earned our return in that year, we
4	customers.		4	did, but Igor was a big significant event. It
5 M	IR. JOHNSON:		5	was a little bit of I'm not sure I should
6	Q. So these types of things are significant risk	ς	6	say this, but good luck on our side in the
7	mitigators obviously, these accounts, for	I	7	fact that sales were higher than what we
8	instance, the ability to have timely		8	expected. But other than that, Newfoundland
9	recoveries?		9	Power would have, in that particular year,
10 M	IS. PERRY:	1	10	certainly been at the lower end of its range
11	A. I will agree that regulatory mechanisms th	nat 1	11	of return.
12	permit timeliness of recovery reduces th		12 MR. J	OHNSON:
13	exposure to those cost variances, but risk i			Still in all, it would have been a reasonable
14	a relative concept which we've displayed		14	return, because anything in the range is
15	our evidence, and relative to other utilities		15	reasonable.
16	they're very common, they're very consist		16 MS. F	
17	What I will say is that not all reserve			Well, it would have been below the allowed.
18	mechanisms that we have is just simply at			OHNSON:
19	risk reduction of Newfoundland Power.			Pardon me?
20	actually have an excess earnings account v		20 MS. F	
21	is simply solely about Newfoundland Pov	I		It would have been below the allowed return.
22	return, not risk.			OHNSON:
l	10:00 a.m.)			If that had transpired. In terms of I'd
	IR. JOHNSON:		24	like to bring you to a question that
25	Q. And we'll talk about some of your account		25	Newfoundland Power asked to Dr. Booth in
		Page 46		Page 48
1	but given Newfoundland Power's set-up, as yo	-	1	Newfoundland Power CA-03. The question is:
2	call it, and the regulatory construct, and		2	with reference to CA-NP-004(A), Dr. Booth
3	given, you know, the execution part of it, and		3	states "I would accept that Newfoundland
4	that's common to any utility, and given		4	Power's average business risk and assessment
5	Newfoundland Power's ability to earn the		5	that Newfoundland Power seems to accept and
6	return since 1996 each and every single year,		6	also that it has lower financial risk which
7	what could cause Newfoundland Power to fail	to	7	Newfoundland Power also seems to accept." And
8	earn its allowed ROE in the future, given that		8	the question that was sent back to Dr. Booth
9	it's essentially always earned it in the past?		9	was "please indicate specifically where in the
	IS. PERRY:	1	10	response to Request for Information CA-NP-04
11	A. Mr. Chairman, Newfoundland Power is very m		11	Newfoundland Power indicates that it has lower
12	like a normal business in so many ways and we		12	than average financial risk." And Dr. Booth's
13	from a financial risk perspective, we still		13	reply is "Newfoundland Power's target common
14	take the risk of forecast risk between test		14	equity ratio of 45 percent is higher than that
15	years. We take the risk with respect to		15	typically approved for Canadian regulated
16	management of our power supply costs as it		16	for regulated Canadian electric utilities.
17	relates to demand cost, operating the system.		17	With a higher common equity ratio, by
18	We can tell from Friday that we incur cost,		18	definition, there is lower financial risk to
19	certainly unexpected cost that are not		19	the common equity holder." And is that, is
20	necessarily within Newfoundland Power's		20	Dr. Booth's answer disputed by Newfoundland
21	control or budget. We have an 80 million		20	Power?
22	dollar capital plan that we manage daily to		21 22 MS. F	
22	donar capital plan that we manage than to		22 IVIS. F	I don't think it's disputed. I think what

24

25

A. I don't think it's disputed. I think what

we're saying is that all else being equal,

with a higher common equity ratio, that lowers

ensure that it comes in on time, on budget,

capital program. We have to depreciate that

because if not, we have to finance that

23

24

Page 59 1 the financial risk, just the financial risk, 2 of a utility. 3 MR. JOHNSON: 4 Q. So that's all he was saying, and we thought it 5 odd that Newfoundland Power would in any 6 event, we're not in disagreement that the 7 higher common equity ratio lowers Newfoundland 8 Power's financial risk? 9 MS. PERRY: 10 A. I don't believe so, Mr. Johnson. 11 MR. JOHNSON: 12 Q. Okay. And does Newfoundland Power accept that 13 there's a difference between financial risk 14 and business risk? 15 MS. PERRY: 16 A. Yes, we do. 17 MR. JOHNSON: 18 Q. Okay. And how does Newfoundland Power assess 19 is business risk. 19 MS. PERRY: 20 MS. PERRY: 21 A. Well, there's - 22 MR. JOHNSON: 22 MR. PERRY: 23 Q. Do you have average business risk? 24 MS. PERRY: 25 A. Our experts have determined that we are an Page 50 1 average business risk. The Board, at the last 2 hearing, cited that Newfoundland Power was 5 of business risk, we look at the different areas 6 of business risk, we look at the different areas 6 of business risk, we look at the different areas 6 of business risk, we look at the different areas 6 of business risk, we look at the different areas 6 of business risk, we look at the different areas 6 of business risk, we look at the different areas 6 of business risk, we look at the different areas 6 of business risk, we look at the different areas 6 of business risk who the certainly include, as 7 Mr. Ludlow talked about: our demographics; our 8 population which was forecast to decline lower 14 than any other province or I should say 10 decline in comparison to all other provinces; 11 the size of Newfoundland Power relative to 12 other utilities; look at our cost flexibility. 15 And we've displayed all of this in our 16 of power. We look at our cost flexibility. 17 MR. Jountson: 18 Intervention of the provinces of powers, single source 19 of power, we look at our cost flexibility. 19 other utilities; look at our operating 10 or other utilities; look at our or perating 11 over the fact that when I look at our 12 of power,	January 15, 2013	Multi-Page	NL Power Inc. 2013 GRA
2 does Newfoundland Power consider that it has 3 MR. JOHNSON: 5 odd that Newfoundland Power would — in any 6 event, we're not in disagreement that the 7 higher common equity ratio lowers Newfoundland 8 Power's financial risk? 9 MS. PERRY: 10 A. I don't believe so, Mr. Johnson. 11 MR. JOHNSON: 12 Q. Okay. And does Newfoundland Power accept that 13 there's a difference between financial risk 4 and business risk? 14 and business risk? 15 MS. PERRY: 15 MS. PERRY: 15 MS. PERRY: 16 A. Yes, we do. 17 MR. JOHNSON: 18 Q. Okay. And how does Newfoundland Power assess 10 is business risk? 20 MS. PERRY: 21 A. Well, there's — 22 MR. JOHNSON: 23 Q. Do you have average business risk? 24 MS. PERRY: 25 A. Our experts have determined that we are an 24 MS. PERRY: 25 A. Our experts have determined that we are an 25 business risk which certainly include, as 6 of business risk which certainly include, as 7 Mr. Ludlow talked about; our demographics; our 8 population which was forecast to decline lower 9 than any other province or 1 should say 10 decline in comparison to all other provinces; 11 overall we're average of the Canadian 12 does Newfoundland Power consider that it has 3 average business risk of a regulated utility 16 A. No, I don't believe we do. I think that we 6 A. No, I don't believe we do. I think that we 7 consider we we've considered the fact that 8 given the fact that we are small and low 9 growth, which is what the Board has cited, as beeing inportant in the determination of our overall risk and the 45 percent equity ratio, 10 being important in the determination of our overall risk and the 45 percent equity ratio, 12 which lowers our financial risk, offsets that 13 heightened level of business risk so that 13 heightened level of business risk so that 14 overall we're average. 15 MR. JOHNSON: 16 Q. So your business risks are above average? 17 MS. PERRY: 29 it relative to? What I'm saying is that we've 21 displayed our business risk and we've said they've not materially changes ince the last 15 hearing the fact tha		Page 49	Page 51
4 in Canada? 5 MS PERRY: 5 MS, PERRY: 9 growth, with is what the Board has cited, as being important in the determination of our 11 MR, JOHNSON: 10 A. I don't believe so, Mr. Johnson. 11 MR, JOHNSON: 12 Q. Okay. And does Newfoundland Power accept that 13 there's a difference between financial risk 14 and business risk? 15 MS, PERRY: 15 MS, PERRY: 16 A. Yes, we do. 17 MR, JOHNSON: 18 Q. Okay. And how does Newfoundland Power assess 19 is business risk? 19 is business risk? 20 MS, PERRY: 21 A. Well, there's - 22 MR, JOHNSON: 22 MR, JOHNSON: 23 Q. Okay. And how does Newfoundland Power assess 19 is business risk? 24 MS, PERRY: 25 MS, DERRY: 26 MS, PERRY: 27 A. Our experts have determined that we are an Page 50 1 average business risk. The Board, at the last 2 hearing, cited that Newfoundland Power was 3 considered to be an average risk utility. The 4 way back to the question on how we assess 5 business risk which certainly include, as 6 of business risk which certainly include, as 7 Mr. Ludlow talked about: our demographics; our 8 population which was forecast to decline over 11 the size of Newfoundland Power relative to 12 other utilities; look at our operating 10 the rest of Canada. 16 A. No, I don't believe we do. I think that we consider we we've considered the fact that we growth, which is what the Board has cited, as given the fact that we are small and low given the fact that we are small and low given the fact that we are small and low overall risk and the 5 percent equity ratio, overall risk and the 45 p		k, 1	financial risk, but what I'm asking you is does Newfoundland Power consider that it has
5 odd that Newfoundland Power would — in any 6 event, we're not in disagreement that the 7 higher common equity ratio lowers Newfoundland 8 Power's financial risk? 9 MN. PERRY: 9 10 A. I don't believe so, Mr. Johnson. 11 MR. JoHNSON: 12 Q. Okay. And does Newfoundland Power accept that 13 there's a difference between financial risk 14 and business risk? 15 MS. PERRY: 16 A. Yes, we do. 17 MM. JOHNSON: 18 Q. Okay. And how does Newfoundland Power assess 19 is business risk? 16 A. Yes, we do. 17 MM. JOHNSON: 18 Q. Okay. And how does Newfoundland Power assess 19 is business risk? 20 MS. PERRY: 21 A. Well, there's - 22 MN. PERRY: 22 AN. JOHNSON: 23 Q. Do you have average business risk? 24 MS. PIERRY: 25 A. Our experts have determined that we are an Page 50 1 average business risk. The Board, at the last hearing, cited that Newfoundland Power was considered to be an average risk utility. The way — back to the question on how we assess business risk, we look at the different areas of Dusiness risk which certainly include, as 7 Mr. Ludlow talked about: our demographics; our population which was forecast to decline lower than any other province or I should say decline in comparison to all other provinces; 10 the size of Newfoundland Power relative to other utilities; look at our operating conditions; our source of power, single source of power. We look at our operating conditions; our source of power, single source of power, we look at our operating to the we've displayed all of this in our 15 MR. JOHNSON: 5 MS. PERRY: 6 A. No, I don't believe we do. It his what the Board that the we are small and low given the fact that we are small and low given the det that the Board height the devel of business risk, and the 45 percent equity ratio, which lowers our financial risk, offsets that height head they overall we're average. 15 MS. JOHNSON: 16 A. Yes we do. 17 MS. JOHNSON: 18 Q. Okay. And how does Newfoundland Power assess it's relative to what, right. I mean, what is it's relative to what, right. I mean, what is it's rela	3 MR. JOHNSON:	3	average business risk of a regulated utility
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And we've displayed all of this in our 15 And I can't help but think that those	1	-	~ ~
	1 -	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
10 evidence in this proceeding and we ve made the 110 prevalent process of information matters to the	evidence in this proceeding and we'		prevalent pieces of information matters to the
observation that we do not believe that our assessment of Newfoundland Power's business			
business risk have changed materially since 18 risk. I'm not the expert. I would look to			
the last rate filing, and at that time, the 19 the experts for that, but I think that the	1	•	-
Board concluded at that time that Newfoundland 20 size of Newfoundland Power, the low growth and		I	-

22

23

24

others, yes.

25 MR. JOHNSON:

the other things that I've mentioned certainly

has certain business risks not faced by

weigh into my belief that Newfoundland Power

Power was an average risk utility.

Q. What I'm getting at and what I'm asking is in

relation to Newfoundland -- you've indicated

there's a difference between business risk and

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23

24

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22 MR. JOHNSON:

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Pa	ige 53		Page 55
1 Q. But you don't face avalanches.	1		transmission, yes.
2 MS. PERRY:	2	MR. J	OHNSON:
3 A. Not yet.	3	Q.	Yes, and that would be part of the lowest
4 MR. JOHNSON:	4		segment of risk in the country, as Ms. McShane
5 Q. But in terms of you reference the negatives	5		indicated?
6 for Newfoundland Power, but you don't tal	k 6	MS. P	ERRY:
7 about any of the positives. What are the	7	A.	I believe that was her testimony yesterday,
8 positives, Ms. Perry, for Newfoundland Powe	er? 8		yes.
9 MS. PERRY:	9	MR. J	OHNSON:
10 A. I'm not sure I understand the question, Mr.	10	Q.	And then in terms of distribution aspect, she
11 Johnson.	11		puts that a bit above transmission but
12 MR. JOHNSON:	12		certainly below natural gas on a segment
13 Q. Well, concentration in the market. I mean,	13		basis, you heard that?
DBRS, one of your bond rating agencies,	14	MS. P	ERRY:
indicates, do they not, that you have market	15	A.	Yes, I heard that.
dominance on the island?	16	MR. J	OHNSON:
17 MS. PERRY:	17	Q.	Okay. So how do you do you discount where
18 A. Yes, and they also mention that we have	18		you sit in the sectors in terms of how
limited growth.	19		suddenly you then determine that business risk
20 MR. JOHNSON:	20		for Newfoundland Power is greater than
21 Q. But limited growth as well, growth high	21		average?
rates of growth involves risk as well, does it	22	MS. P	ERRY:
23 not?	23	A.	Again, I knew that by saying yes that would be
24 MS. PERRY:	24		problematic because I'm not the expert and I
25 A. I believe so. You have to fund and finance	25		certainly am not the one to perform that
Pa	ige 54		Page 56
1 that rate base growth.	1		business risk analysis such that was done by
2 MR. JOHNSON:	2		Ms. McShane to compare to distribution,
3 Q. And then there's forecasting risk that might	3		transmission, natural gas. What I'm saying is
4 be elevated through that?	4		that is what I know.
5 MS. PERRY:	5	MR. J	OHNSON:
6 A. Certainly.	6	Q.	And let us agree then on this: your assessment
7 MR. JOHNSON:	7		on it is not a professional assessment at all.
8 Q. Which Newfoundland Power wouldn't have in a	a 8		It's more of a it's well, I won't say
9 more conservative mature growth environment?	9		professional, but it's not an expert
10 MS. PERRY:	10		assessment in any way and it's a rather
11 A. That is true, but what Newfoundland Power	11		subjective assessment, is it not?
faces is the fact of urbanization and the fact	12	MS. P	ERRY:
that we have a number of municipalities that	13	A.	I disagree in the fact that we're coming from
are lowering in their population, but we're	14		the last rate case and we've articulated the
still having to service that population. So	15		business risk of Newfoundland Power at a time
there's differences with all markets, I	16		when the experts filed evidence the last time
17 believe.	17		about Newfoundland Power's business risk.
18 MR. JOHNSON:	18		We've laid out the significant business risk
19 Q. And Newfoundland Power, as Ms. McShane talke			that we see. We've stated that we believe
about the difference in sectors, Newfoundland	20		they've not materially changed. So I don't
21 Power is in the you know, actually	21		see the precipitating factor that would have
Newfoundland Power has a fair amount of assets	22		changed Newfoundland Power's assessment of
in transmission, do they not, Ms. Perry?	23		being an overall average risk utility. The
24 MS. PERRY:	24		Board cited that our low growth small profile
25 A We have a certain percentage of accets in	25		was offset by the 45 percent and we're just

was offset by the 45 percent and we're just

A. We have a certain percentage of assets in

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simply saying that nothing has changed since	1 Power's business profile.
then, and I guess that's about as far as my	2 MR. JOHNSON:
3 professional judgment can take it.	3 Q. Well, we certainly have some evidence to
4 MR. JOHNSON:	4 compare its profile to from BC. In any event,
5 Q. Right, but I guess it would be fair to say	5 we will go to another topic for a bit, and
6 that on behalf of Newfoundland Power, you can	6 I'll ask you to go to page 311. You're
7 state that the Board should consider relative	showing in Table 3.8 finance charges for the
8 rankings of the utilities in terms of	8 company. You're showing your average debt,
9 transmission, distribution, gas, vertically	9 finance charges and average cost of debt over
integrated? Would that be fair?	2010 to 2014 and Ms. Perry, the average as
11 (10:15 a.m.)	11 I've noted, the average embedded debt cost is
12 MS. PERRY:	shown and we note that it was 7.46 percent as
13 A. I think, Mr. Chairman, I'll let the Board	an average cost in 2010 and has declined
decide what they consider as evidence. 15 MR, JOHNSON:	
	_
16 Q. Do you consider it as relevant?	percent in 2014, and is this relatively slow
17 MS. PERRY:	decline in the average cost of debt, is this
18 A. All information is relevant, Mr. Johnson.	because Newfoundland Power is relatively slow
19 MR. JOHNSON:	19 growing with little new debt and that
Q. Including your market dominance and all those	20 therefore the embedded debt costs will mainly
other factors?	decline due to refinancing of existing debt?
22 MS. PERRY:	22 MS. PERRY:
23 A. Yes, I would agree.	23 A. In part, I would agree. I mean, your cost of
24 MR. JOHNSON:	debt will change as you term out and pay off
25 Q. Yes, okay. But I take it, if you would not	25 existing debt and refinance your debt, yes.
Page 5	Page 60
1 I take it you would not disagree that if the	1 And it matters with respect to your proportion
2 Board were to conclude that Newfoundland Power	2 of your long term with your short term at any
3 has average business risk relative to other	3 point in time.
4 utilities and lower than average financial	4 MR. JOHNSON:
5 risk as you've conceded that it would be	5 Q. Right. So if Newfoundland Power was growing
6 obvious that Newfoundland Power's overall risk	6 rapidly and having to go to the markets, we
7 would be lower than an average risk, an	7 would expect to see average cost of debt come
8 average business risk utility?	8 down more rapidly than what we're seeing in
9 MS. PERRY:	9 this case?
10 A. I believe that risk is the total of all three,	10 MS. PERRY:
which is business, financial and regulatory	11 A. At today's current rate, yes.
and if the Board were to decide that	12 MR. JOHNSON:
Newfoundland Power had lower business risk	13 Q. And could I direct your attention to Dr.
than what it had the last time it was here -	Booth's testimony at page 28?
15 MR. JOHNSON:	15 MS. PERRY:
16 Q. No, if Newfoundland Power had average business	16 A. Thank you.
risk and accepted what you've indicated that	17 MR. JOHNSON:
the financial risk is lower, would it not be	18 Q. Ms. Perry, Dr. Booth has prepared a graph
obvious that Newfoundland Power's overall risk	which tracks both Scotia Capital's long term A
20 would be lower in that scenario?	20 bond yields and the Bloomberg derived utility
21 MS. PERRY:	21 long term yield and you see that before you?
22 A. I think by the summation, yes, that's true,	22 MS. PERRY:
but Mr. Johnson and Mr. Chairman, I would note	23 A. Is that on page 28, Mr. Johnson?
24 that I'm not aware of what has changed since	24 MR. JOHNSON:
25 the 2009 hearing with respect to Newfoundland	25 Q. Yes, ma'am.

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1 MS. PERRY:	1	l Q.	And do you think that Newfoundland Power
2 A. Okay, yes.	2	2	should have higher common equity ratio because
3 MR. JOHNSON:	3	3	it has higher embedded debt costs?
4 Q. And Dr. Booth tells me that the average	e for 4	4 MS. I	PERRY:
5 the Scotia Capital long term bond yields	was 5	5 A.	Well, I know that with a lower common equity
6 5.42 percent in 2010 and 4.92 percent in	2011	5	ratio, your financial risk is increased, so
7 and 4.2 percent in 2013 and he tells me	that 7	7	with a higher embedded cost of debt, you'll
8 the utility, derive utility long term yield	. 8	3	have higher fixed charges, so that, in my
9 would be about 20 basis points lower.	Does 9)	mind, increases the financial risk exposure to
this sound about right to you?	10)	Newfoundland Power. So I believe so, yes.
11 MS. PERRY:	11	MR.	OHNSON:
12 A. I'll accept that that's what this is saying.	12	2 Q.	Could I ask you to turn up the Fortis MD&A?
13 MR. JOHNSON:	13	MS. O	GLYNN:
14 Q. Okay. And so if we keep those figures in	n mind 14	4 Q.	That's Information Item No. 6.
and look at Newfoundland Power's embe	edded debt 15	MS. I	PERRY:
16 costs of 7.46, 7.31, going down to 7.05	to 16	б A.	Oh, this is the information. I got it right
17 6.96, it would be true that rate payers	17	7	here.
18 through Newfoundland Power's rev	venue 18	3 MR.	OHNSON:
requirement are paying about two percen	it more	Q.	Ms. Perry, in particular, if I could ask you
20 each year than Newfoundland Power's	market 20)	to turn to page 37, and the capital structure
21 debt cost? Would that be right?	21		is shown in the box there, and I take it that
22 MS. PERRY:	22	2	you'll agree that that indicates that Fortis
23 A. Newfoundland Power is paying its curren	nt cost 23	3	itself has 57.1 percent debt, 8.3 percent
of debt, its embedded cost of debt.	24	1	preference shares and 34.6 percent common
25 MR. JOHNSON:	25	5	shares?
	Page 62		Page 64
1 Q. I understand.	1	MS. I	PERRY:
2 MS. PERRY:	2	2 A.	Yes, I can confirm that.
3 A. Because you don't pay your marke	t cost of 3	3 MR.	OHNSON:
4 debt.	4	4 Q.	And would you accept that Fortis has a
5 MR. JOHNSON:	5	5	consolidated common equity ratio of 35

Q. I understand, but relative to what's out there 7 on the market, the embedded cost is about two 8

percentage points more, right?

9 MS. PERRY:

10

A. That sounds reasonable.

11 MR. JOHNSON:

12 Q. Okay. And would -- and I guess this goes back 13 to the earlier point as to whether you would 14 believe that Newfoundland Power should get a higher ROE because it has a higher embedded 15 debt cost? 16

17 MS. PERRY:

18 A. Mr. Chairman, I think there is some 19 correlation between your cost of debt and your 20 cost of equity. The reality is our average 21 cost of debt is, on average, seven percent. 22 So I think there is some correlation between 23 your cost of debt and your cost of equity, 24 yes. 25 MR. JOHNSON:

percent? 6

7 MS. PERRY:

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A. Yes, that's what it's showing here.

9 MR. JOHNSON:

Q. Okay, yeah. And in terms of the financial arrangements between its operating subsidiaries and the parent company, as you go down to the bottom of page 37, first of all it sets out the credit ratings of Fortis, which is Standard and Poors A minus and DBRS A low as their unsecured debt credit rating, and it says "the above noted credit ratings reflect the corporation's low business risk profile and diversity of its operations, the stand alone nature and financial separation of each of the regulated subsidiaries of Fortis, management's commitment to maintaining low levels of debt at the holding company level, the corporation's reasonable credit metrics and its demonstrated ability and continued

	•		age	NL 1 OWEI IIIC, 2013 GRA
	Page 65			Page 67
1	focus on acquiring and integrating stable	1	MS. Pl	ERRY:
2	regulated utility businesses financed on a	2	A.	Mathematically, yes, but there's a lot of
3	conservative basis."	3		complications with just swapping out five
4	And I take it your if we look at the	4		percent common equity with five percent
5	common share if we flip back and look at,	5		preferred shares and I've displayed those in
6	on page 22, which sets out the allowed common	6		my opening.
7	equities of each of Fortis' companies,	7	MR. JO	OHNSON:
8	obviously everybody is at 40, with the	8	Ο.	And we'll talk about those. And in terms of
9	exception of Fortis Alberta who's at 41,	9	Ψ.	the mechanisms of preferred share issuance, if
10	Newfoundland Power is at 45, and in terms of	10		Newfoundland Power were to issue preference
11	the Fortis family of companies, would	11		shares, that would be done with the assistance
12	Newfoundland Power be an average business risk	12		of Fortis no doubt?
13	within Fortis, the Fortis utilities?		MS. PI	
13 14 MS. I				
		14		Can you repeat the question, Mr. Johnson?
	I've not made that assessment, Mr. Johnson.			OHNSON:
1	JOHNSON:	16	Q.	If preference shares were to be issued in
1	. So you don't know?	17		Newfoundland Power, how would that how
18 MS. I		18		would you go about that?
	. That's correct.		MS. Pl	
	JOHNSON:	20	A.	Well, if it was deemed appropriate to issue
21 Q.	. If we add up all of the equity in the Fortis	21		preference shares, Newfoundland Power would
22	companies that are shown there, as we've noted	22		issue preference shares. We operate
23	each utility has at least 40 percent common	23		Newfoundland Power on a stand-alone basis and
24	equity, whereas as we've demonstrated, the	24		that pertains to the financing of Newfoundland
25	consolidated common equity ratio of Fortis	25		Power as well. And I believe it was in 2003-
123	consolidated common equity ratio of Torus	120		1 ower as well. That I believe it was in 2005
		+		
	Page 66			Page 68
1	Page 66 itself is only 35 percent. What does this	1		Page 68 2004 where the Board, at that time and
1 2	Page 66 itself is only 35 percent. What does this tell us, Ms. Perry?	1 2		Page 68 2004 where the Board, at that time and there was concern around that time with
1 2 3 MS. 1	Page 66 itself is only 35 percent. What does this tell us, Ms. Perry? PERRY:	1 2 3		Page 68 2004 where the Board, at that time and there was concern around that time with respect to certain credit rating linkages
1 2 3 MS. 1 4 A.	Page 66 itself is only 35 percent. What does this tell us, Ms. Perry? PERRY: I'm not sure I understand the question, Mr.	1 2 3 4		Page 68 2004 where the Board, at that time and there was concern around that time with respect to certain credit rating linkages between Fortis and Newfoundland Power and the
1 2 3 MS.1 4 A.	Page 66 itself is only 35 percent. What does this tell us, Ms. Perry? PERRY: I'm not sure I understand the question, Mr. Johnson.	1 2 3 4 5		Page 68 2004 where the Board, at that time and there was concern around that time with respect to certain credit rating linkages between Fortis and Newfoundland Power and the Board clearly stated at that time that it felt
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1 2 3 MS.1 4 A.5 5 6 MR.7 Q.8	Page 66 itself is only 35 percent. What does this tell us, Ms. Perry? PERRY: I'm not sure I understand the question, Mr. Johnson. JOHNSON: Doesn't it mean that Fortis is financing its equity investment in its subsidiaries with	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8		Page 68 2004 where the Board, at that time and there was concern around that time with respect to certain credit rating linkages between Fortis and Newfoundland Power and the Board clearly stated at that time that it felt it was in the best interest of customers and Newfoundland Power to operate as a stand-alone utility. So if we were to issue and deem it
1 2 3 MS.1 4 A. 5 6 MR. 7 Q. 8	Page 66 itself is only 35 percent. What does this tell us, Ms. Perry? PERRY: I'm not sure I understand the question, Mr. Johnson. JOHNSON: Doesn't it mean that Fortis is financing its equity investment in its subsidiaries with other securities other than straight common	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9		Page 68 2004 where the Board, at that time and there was concern around that time with respect to certain credit rating linkages between Fortis and Newfoundland Power and the Board clearly stated at that time that it felt it was in the best interest of customers and Newfoundland Power to operate as a stand-alone utility. So if we were to issue and deem it appropriate, which would be a battle to begin
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1 2 3 MS. 1 4 A. 5 6 MR. 7 Q. 8 9 10 11 MS. 1 12 A. 13 MR. 14 Q. 15 16 MS. 1 17 A. 18 19 MR. 20 Q. Q.	Page 66 itself is only 35 percent. What does this tell us, Ms. Perry? PERRY: I'm not sure I understand the question, Mr. Johnson. JOHNSON: Doesn't it mean that Fortis is financing its equity investment in its subsidiaries with other securities other than straight common equity? PERRY: Yes, that's what it's showing here, yes. JOHNSON: And as we've seen, Fortis has 8.3 percent preference shares itself, correct? PERRY: Yes. I'm not sure what type of preference shares, but yes. JOHNSON: And I take it there's no question that if we	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	MR. JO Q. MS. PI	Page 68 2004 where the Board, at that time and there was concern around that time with respect to certain credit rating linkages between Fortis and Newfoundland Power and the Board clearly stated at that time that it felt it was in the best interest of customers and Newfoundland Power to operate as a stand-alone utility. So if we were to issue and deem it appropriate, which would be a battle to begin with, but if we were to deem it appropriate to issue preference shares, we would have to issue them on our own as Newfoundland Power, not with Fortis. O a.m.) OHNSON: And you indicated in your direct testimony that that would be troublesome, and why would that be, in terms of actually issuing preference shares to investors? EERRY:
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Jai	nuary 15, 2013	Multi-	Pag	ge TM	NL Power Inc. 2013 GRA
		Page 69			Page 71
1	around issuing a 40 million dollar prefere	nce	1	Q.	In terms of capital market conditions, Ms.
2	share issuance and the response was that w	would	2		Perry, I take it that you would agree that
3	be unusual because that's a very small	1	3		capital market conditions are easier now than
4	issuance. Usually you see the preferred sl	nare	4		they were in 2009 when the Board last heard
5	market to be much larger than that. And a		5		cost of capital testimony?
6	said, where we are an unknown name to		6 N	IS. PE	RRY:
7	market, to the preference share market,	we	7	A.	Mr. Chairman, I will agree that they're
8	would certainly have to go through a pre	tty	8		probably easier than the first part of 2009,
9	significant investment profile prior to		9		but by the time we got to the hearing in 2009,
10	issuing and I have asked about pricing w		10		the markets had somewhat rebalanced from where
11	respect to preference share, because we'		11		they were at the lowest level and I'm not sure
12	always interested in getting the lowest pri		12		that I see a lot of difference since then.
13	and it's viewed that it would be no mo		13		There's been a lot of ups and downs and in
14	efficient than if we issued long term bond		14		betweens since the latter part of 2009 and
15	That's the view today. So if we could iss		15		certainly one of the ways I gauge the capital
16	it probably would be at a higher cost that	I	16		markets is looking at Newfoundland Power's
17	long term debt.		17		credit spreads and our credit spreads are
	MR. JOHNSON:	I	18		roughly the same as what they were at the end
19	Q. When was the last time that was investigated		19		of 2009. They haven't changed significantly.
	MS. PERRY:				HNSON:
21	A. I would say mid December I confirmed	·	21	Q.	In terms of your assessment of the capital
22	conversation around preference shares, b	I	22		markets, do you have any expertise in the
23	on Dr. Booth's evidence.		23		capital markets or is this just are we on
1	MR. JOHNSON:		24		the level of your impression about it, Ms.
25	Q. And in terms of there being a market for		25		Perry?
		Page 70			Page 72
1	preference shares, you're aware that there	II.			ERRY:
2	sizable market out there for people who d		2	A.	No, I would not go as far as to say that I'm
3	preference shares to invest in no doubt?		3		an expert in capital markets and certainly we
	MS. PERRY:		4		provided evidence with our witnesses on that.
5	A. Certainly. There's a preference share man	II.			OHNSON:
6	It's just we are a small issuer, so we're no		6	Q.	Okay. And I just wanted to get that
7	a known issuer in the market and norma	-	7		clarified, if that's the case. If I could
8	preference share issues are substantial, an	I	8		bring you to page 53 of this Fortis MD&A? It
9	know Fortis just issued one, I believe it w over 200 million.		9		indicates as a subsequent event that in
10			10		October of 2012, Fortis Alberta issued 40-year 125 million dollar 3.98 percent senior
	MR. JOHNSON: Q. But that was in November of 2012?		11 12		unsecured debentures, the proceeds of which
12	MS. PERRY:		13		are being used to repay borrowings under the
14	A. Yes, I believe around that time.		13 14		company's credit facility, fund future capital
1	MR. JOHNSON:				expenditures and for general corporate
16	Q. I think the first preference shares had a		15 16		purposes. Dr. Booth advises me that according
17	yield of 4.75 percent.		10 17		to the Wall Street Journal this was at 140
1	MS. PERRY:		18		basis point premium to equivalent maturity
19	A. I would have to confirm but that sounds in	I	10 19		long Canada bonds. Would you accept that?
119	1. 1 would have to commin out that sounds in	1 1110			EDDA

A. I would have to confirm but that sounds in the 19 ballpark. 20 21 MR. JOHNSON:

Q. Would you take that, subject to check?

23 MS. PERRY:

24 A. Yes.

25 MR. JOHNSON:

21 A. I accept that, yes.

22 MR. JOHNSON:

20 MS. PERRY:

Q. And Fortis Alberta, they're rated A low by 23 24 DBRS? Would that be correct, Ms. Perry? 25 MS. PERRY:

7

16

24

Page 73

A. I would have to confirm that.

2 MR. JOHNSON:

Q. Okay. Would you accept that they are rated A 3 4

low by DBRS and BAA1 by Moody's?

5 MS. PERRY:

A. Subject to check, yes.

7 MR. JOHNSON:

Q. And A minus by S&P?

9 MS. PERRY:

A. Again, subject to check. 10

11 MR. JOHNSON:

12 Q. Okay. Do you -- you deal with trying to raise

funds through bonds, et cetera. Would you

14 believe that Fortis Alberta could have raised

40-year sub four percent debt in 2009? 15

16 MS. PERRY:

13

A. I would have to go back there and just see 17

what they were issuing at at that time. The 18

coupon rate that we're looking at here is a 19

product of the decline in the bond yields, the 20

Canada bond yields. So it's not all 21

22 reflective of the bond spread, the utility

23 bond spread.

24 MR. JOHNSON:

25 Q. But in terms of the availability to access

Page 74

debt, that has -- would it be your observation 1

that that has improved, relative to a few

years ago, especially at those low, low rates? 3

4 MS. PERRY:

2

8

20

A. Mr. Chairman, I'll agree with the low rates 5

and as I said, it's a reflective of the long 6

7 Canada bond yield, but I'm not sure I would go

as far and say that the market is any better

since the latter part of 2009. Now we have 9

not issued any debt since 2009, so I have 10

11 nothing directly to compare it to.

12 MR. JOHNSON:

13 Q. At page 40, just a little bit below the chart,

it indicates that "in March 2012, Newfoundland 14

15 Power renegotiated and amended its 100 million

dollar unsecured committed revolving credit 16

17 facility, obtaining an extension to the

maturity of the facility from August '15, 18

19 August 2015 to August 2017. The amended

credit facility agreement reflects a decrease

in pricing but otherwise contains 21

22 substantially similar terms and conditions as

the previous credit facility agreement" So in 23

terms of the decrease in pricing, can you 24

25 indicate what that was? 1 MS. PERRY:

A. So this refinancing was on our 100 million

Page 75

Page 76

dollar unsecured short term credit facility, 3

and so periodically, if the market is right,

we will -- we have a pricing grid within that 5

particular credit facility and if the pricing 6

should contract, then we will take opportunity

of that and refinance, and that's what we have 8

done.

10 MR. JOHNSON:

Q. So what was the decrease in pricing that was 11

12 experienced?

13 MS. PERRY:

14 A. I don't have it in front of me now. I

wouldn't -- I'm not sure what the actual 15

decline was, and certainly the savings would

depend on the amount of short term borrowings 17

that we would have in any particular time. 18

19 MR. JOHNSON:

Q. Right, and they say contains substantially 20

similar terms and conditions as the previous 21

22 credit facility agreement, and I think there

was an adverse conditions clause that had been 23

there before or an adverse material change

clause that had been removed. 25

1 MS. PERRY:

A. My memory is that the material adverse clause

was removed prior to this extension. It was 3

removed some time ago. 4

5 MR. JOHNSON:

Q. And the nature of that clause, when it 6

7 existed, did what? What was its effect?

8 MS. PERRY:

A. I would have to go back and actually read that 9

clause again because it's been sometime since 10

11 it's been in Newfoundland Power's credit

agreement. I believe that was removed some 12

years ago. I'd have to check, Mr. Johnson.

14 MR. JOHNSON:

13

Q. I wonder if Ms. Perry and Mr. Kelly wouldn't 15

mind filing what that clause stated as an 16

undertaking? 17

18 KELLY, O.C.:

Q. That's fine, Mr. Chairman. 19

20 MS. PERRY:

A. Sure, yeah.

22 MR. JOHNSON:

Q. Ms. Perry, moving to another topic. Since the 23

last general rate application, there have been 24 25

a number of stand-alone applications that

Januar	19 15, 2015	11-1	age THE TOWER THE, 2013 GRA
	Page 7	7	Page 79
1	Newfoundland Power has been able to make to	1	would likely not have applied for 2012, but
2	the Board. For instance, by order of P.U. 30	2	given that the issue that we had to deal with
3	(2010) the Board approved deferred recovery by	3	was our cost of equity, then we sought a cost
4	Newfoundland Power of nearly 2.4 million in	4	of capital application to deal with that one
5	2011 costs, and then P.U.12, I think 20 I	5	sole issue.
6	don't know if it was 2010 or 2011, the Board	6	MR. JOHNSON:
7	approved recovery of 2.4 million in 2012	7	Q. And do you know whether it has precedent even
8	costs, and then we had the Board's order in	8	in other Canadian jurisdictions?
9	P.U.17 ('12) which approved deferred recovery	9	MS. PERRY:
10	by Newfoundland Power of two and a half	10	A. I believe cost of capital applications are
11	million in 2012 costs as part of its	11	held in Alberta. I would have to confirm.
12	determining Newfoundland Power's cost of	12	I'm not sure.
13	capital, right?	13	MR. JOHNSON:
14 MS.	PERRY:	14	Q. On a stand-alone basis like that? And in this
15 A	. Yes, I believe that to be correct.	15	proceeding, Ms. Perry, Newfoundland Power has
16 MR.	JOHNSON:	16	applied to amortize the recovery over a three-
17 Q	. And were there any other one-of applications	17	year period of a forecast 2013 revenue
18	of that nature over that period that you can	18	shortfall of an estimated \$980,000 which was
19	think of?	19	agreed to, and tell us why this request was
20 MS.	PERRY:	20	important to the company and why it was
21 A	. Other than to apply for suspension of the	21	sought.
22	formula.	22	MS. PERRY:
23 MR.	JOHNSON:	23	A. With respect to that one amortization, Mr.
24 Q	. Right, okay. And in terms of Newfoundland	24	Johnson?
25	Power applying for determination of cost of	25	MR. JOHNSON:
	Page 7	8	Page 80
1	equity without necessity of filing a general	1	
2	rate application, are you which was done,	-	MS. PERRY:
3	for instance, in 2012 are you aware of how	3	
4	rare an event that is in the United States,	4	MR. JOHNSON:
5	for instance? Ms. McShane indicates that	5	
6	she's not aware of an instance where a US		MS. PERRY:
7	utility sought and was granted a determination	7	
8	of its cost of equity without necessity of	8	
9	filing a GRA. Are you aware of that?	9	
10 MS.	•	10	
1	. No, I wouldn't be able to comment on what	11	
12	happens.	12	
	JOHNSON:	13	
	. Can you tell us what advantage or benefit it	14	
15	was, sitting in your chair as CFO to	15	
16	Newfoundland Power, to be able to bring	16	
17	forward such an application before the Board,		MR. JOHNSON:
18	to the Board for its determination outside of	18	
19	a GRA?	19	
	PERRY:	20	
1	. Well, Mr. Chairman, the application with	21	
22	respect to cost of capital was certainly	22	
23	precipitated on the formula producing a return	23	
			700,000:
24	that we deemed to be unfair. So in the		(10:45 a.m.)
24 25		24	

January 15, 2013	Multi-P	age NL Power Inc. 2013 GRA
I	Page 81	Page 83
1 A. So as a product of filing for a double test	1	test year to recover have a reasonable
year, 2013 and 2014, it would be hard to	2	opportunity to recover 2010's test year cost
3 imagine that if we set rates based on 2014,	3	and in the event that rates, for reasons of
4 full year test year, and that if we apply that	4	timing, were not to be implemented on January
5 then to the 2013 on March 1st that it would	5	
6 all balance in one fold. So I would suspect	6	
7 it's very common that you would end up not	7	
8 perfectly squared with balancing the records	8	
9 when you are talking different implementation	9	MR. JOHNSON:
times when you're dealing with a double test	10	Q. Yeah, so the obvious advantage or benefit to
11 year. So that's how the 980 came about.	11	
12 MR. JOHNSON:	12	
13 Q. And in terms of the goal of Newfoundland Pow		•
to have rates implemented by March 1st, 2013,	14	-
15 I take it the company wanted a mechanism in	15	
place to ensure that in the events that rates	16	
couldn't be implemented in time for March 1st,		MS. PERRY:
18 2013, that the company was made whole	18	
19 nonetheless, correct?	19	
20 MS. PERRY:	20	_
21 A. I believe that's a fair observation in that we	21	more or any less than a full year test year.
22 are dealing with two test years, so we are		MR. JOHNSON:
23 considering the complete revenue requirement	23	
24 for those two years, yes.	24	•
25 MR. JOHNSON:	25	-
	Page 82	Page 84
1 Q. And in the last GRA in 2009, that was to set		J I
2 rates for 2010. Newfoundland Power war		
3 rates to come in force January 1st of 2010		3 · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
4 did it not?	4	MS. PERRY:
5 MS. PERRY:	5	A. I would agree with that, yes.
6 A. Yes, that is correct.	6	MR. JOHNSON:
7 MR. JOHNSON:	7	
8 Q. And my recollection, Ms. Perry, is that to		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
9 facilitate this, this Board in fact issued an	9	
order in advance of providing its reasons fo		
decision, which reasons for decision came of		MS. PERRY:
12 Christmas Eve, if I recall, and so that you	12	3
didn't have to wait for the full reasons in	13	•
order to go ahead implementing rates. Do y		
recall that?	15	, ,
16 MS. PERRY:	16	
17 A. Yes, I recall certain of that process, but	17	J I
yes, I believe a decision came out before all	l .	* '
of the particulars of the decision, yes.	19	9
20 MR. JOHNSON:	20	•
21 Q. What was the advantage or the benefit to		
Newfoundland Power of the Board doing th		
23 MS. PERRY:	23	8
24 A. I don't believe there was any advantage to		MR. JOHNSON:
Newfoundland Power. This was we file	ed a 25	Q. So what sort of problems could arise for a

January 15, 2015 NI	ulu-Pa	rage NL Power Inc. 2013 GRA
Page	85	Page 87
1 regulated utility that would result from	1	1 Q. Thank you. Ms. Perry, as you alluded to
2 regulatory lag, just some concrete examples?	2	before the break, Newfoundland Power has set
3 MS. PERRY:	3	up its general rate application to use two
4 A. Well, I'll go back to the 2012 cost of	4	test years. What was the rationale?
5 capital, I guess. That one, from a timing	5	5 MS. PERRY:
6 perspective, we were into 2012 before we had a	ι 6	6 A. I believe, Mr. Chairman, that the rationale
7 cost of capital determined. So we're already	7	was based on timing. Historically when we
8 midway through the year. So if we were	8	filed general rate applications we try to file
9 approved or ordered a rate of return that was	9	closer to the beginning of the year, so that
10 I'll say deemed unfair or lower than the rest	10	we're given a reasonable opportunity to hear
of the country, then we only have six months	11	1 0 1
to try to deal with it then, because the	12	1 63
uncertainty was there, so up until mid 2012,	13	*
it was unknown as to what it would be. We	14	S
only have six months now to try to do things	15	3 /
to get us to the top of a return.	16	• · ·
17 MR. JOHNSON:	17	·
18 Q. Can you provide any other further	18	,
illustrations of where regulatory lag, if it		9 MR. JOHNSON:
20 existed for Newfoundland Power, would cause		
company difficulty?	21	
22 MS. PERRY:	22	
23 A. I guess in terms of cost recovery, if we were	23	e
24 if we put a proposal to this Board to defer	24	
some regulatory amortizations, you know, as	25	5 year.
Page	86	Page 88
1 we've done in 2011 and '12, and if there was		1 MS. PERRY:
we've done in 2011 and '12, and if there was an order that disallowed something that we		1 MS. PERRY: 2 A. Well I guess to clarify, another part of the
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of the decision, based on regulatory	1	
2 efficiency, I don't really see the advantage	e 2	revenue requirement for 2013 and we would have
of Newfoundland Power with that.	3	to prepare the forecast on a different basis
4 MR. JOHNSON:	4	than we've done here today, and just by way of
5 Q. Ms. Perry, you seem not to want to conc	ede 5	example, we've assumed in our forecast that
6 much in the way of advantages to Newfou	ndland 6	the energy supply cost variance reserve is
7 Power this morning. I think it permeates	a 7	going to work for January and February of
lot of what you had to say here and I've h	ad 8	2013, so if 2013 were going to be a full test
9 to really go digging a bit more than I though	ght 9	year, a single test year, then we would have
I had to. A moment ago you said that i	t 10	to rebase 2013 as if non of the mechanisms
allows you to forecast revenues in 2014	1 , 11	were in to play. So it's just a different way
that's one of the things you said about a 20	014 12	of doing much the same thing, I believe.
test year, correct?	13	3 MR. JOHNSON:
14 MS. PERRY:	14	Q. Well, I disagree with you because if we were
15 A. To lay out a test year, you have to forecas	st 15	looking at 2013 as a test year, what would
your revenue requirement, yes.	16	happen in 2014 is that you would have to live
17 MR. JOHNSON:	17	with the rates in 2014 based upon what the
18 Q. Yes, and you said "revenues", not "revenues"	nue 18	forecasted revenues and expenses and costs
requirement". Part of what you're forecast	ting 19	were for the 2013 test year, correct?
as well in capturing in the 2014 test year is	s 20	MS. PERRY:
your estimated costs for 2014, correct?	21	A. That is correct, yes.
22 MS. PERRY:	22	2 MR. JOHNSON:
23 A. Certainly, it's -	23	Q. And if 2014 saw a cost escalation for labour
24 MR. JOHNSON:	24	or materials or advertisements or any of those
25 Q. And you're getting a chance to have rates	to 25	things, or pay, that would not be reflected in
	Page 90	Page 9.
reflect those costs in 2014 without having	_	
2 come back or without the uncertainty of liv		
with costs based on a 2013 test year, corre	~	3 MS. PERRY:
4 MS. PERRY:	4	
5 A. I see the double test years as slightly	5	
6 different than that. You're laying out annu		
7 revenue requirements for Newfoundland		
8 with your forecast cost, as you would in		
9 single test year, and based on Board orde		
and implementation of customer rates, the		
that will just provide Newfoundland Power		
12 opportunity to recover the forecast costs th		
we've laid before this Board.	13	
14 MR. JOHNSON:	13	
15 Q. Okay, but let's get basic here. In a norma		
16 case if you choose one test year, say 201		
test year, you said that's going to be our		
		* *
test year and if we can't get rates by before	e 18	perious, recovery perious, are all ill line

23 MR. JOHNSON:

double test year.

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20 21

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24 Q. But surely outside of something big coming on 25 a horizon, there's a benefit of having 2014

with trying to keep us out of here basically

for a number of years. So I think the

concepts still apply to a single verses a

March 1st, we might have to do something on an

interim basis or something like that. And in

would happen in 2014 if 2014 was not a test

that instance, in that case, Ms. Perry, what

A. So if we were going to go with a single test

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21

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23

25

year?

24 MS. PERRY:

	Till I ower file. 2015 Gr
Page	Page
set up as a test year because you get to	1 A. I would suspect historical test years may be
2 forecast those 2014 costexpenses, and have	2 problematic if you were in a time of growth or
them actually reflected in rates for 2014	3 in a time of change because your future is
4 which is an advantage over a situation of a	4 probably not going to look like your past,
single test year where the 2014 costs would	5 which is pretty simple, I guess, so in a
6 happen and they would be just dealt with in a	6 period of high growth it might be a bit
7 normal event. I thought that this was an	7 problematic.
8 obvious point, it wouldn't be a major point of	8 MR. JOHNSON:
9 contention, Ms. Perry.	9 Q. But in terms of giving visibility, you much
10 MS. PERRY:	prefer as a CFO to be dealing with a future
11 A. I will agree, Mr. Johnson, that we are	11 test year as opposed to a past, even a partial
forecasting 2014's costs. I guess why I'm a	past, correct?
bit reluctant, Mr. Chairman, to say that	13 MS. PERRY:
there's an advantage is that it's just still a	14 A. Our forecast today, yes, they're forward based
forecast. So at any point in time we're still	on the future expectation, but it's built off
dealing with forecast numbers, so -	of the past experience, I guess, of
17 MR. JOHNSON:	Newfoundland Power. I look at our sales, it
18 Q. As the CFO of Newfoundland Power, there's	18 comes from our historical sales base, even our
going to be increases in certain operating	operating costs are built off of the previous
20 costs in 2014 over 2013, I take it.	20 year, so I get the point that if it's solely
20 Costs in 2014 over 2013, I take it. 21 MS. PERRY:	21 based on historical without any adjustment for
22 A. Yes, that is correct.	known and measurable differences, there's some disconnect in the two.
23 MR. JOHNSON:	
24 Q. Yes. And do you know anything about	24 MR. JOHNSON:
25 historical test years and how they operate?	25 Q. You mentioned known and measurable differences
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as Information Item No. 11.	1 rebuilding and expanding legacy
2 MR. JOHNSON:	2 infrastructure, all that would apply, would
3 Q. Thank you.	you preferwould it give you greater
4 MS. GLYNN:	4 visibility to be having the use of a future
5 Q. It was filed on January 9th.	5 test year or a historic or a hybrid, what
6 MR. JOHNSON:	6 would you prefer?
7 Q. I'm referring to the top paragraph of the	7 MS. PERRY:
8 executive summary. It indicates, the very	8 A. I haven't really thought about it or applied
9 first paragraph in the executive summary on	9 it to Newfoundland Power, but I do see
this paper is "US investor owned electric	Newfoundland Power's as being a bit of hybrid
utilities, electric IOUs in jurisdictions with	with respect to how we prepare, given that we
historical test year rate cases are grappling	do base a lot of our forward costs on past
today with financial stresses that threaten	results.
their ability to serve the public well. Unit	14 MR. JOHNSON:
costs are rising because growth and sales	Q. But if that be the case, sure there can't be a
volumes and other billing determinants is not	future test year for anybody because I would
keeping pace with growth and cost. Cost	have thought that a utility would always
growth is stimulated by the need to rebuild	consider its past cost history in putting
and expand legacy infrastructure and to meet	19 forward a future test year.
20 environmental and other public policy goals.	20 MS. PERRY:
In this situation, historical test years still	21 A. Maybe Mr. Johnson, yes.
use in almost 20 United States US	22 MR. JOHNSON:
jurisdictions can erode credit quality and	23 Q. And that cannot be unique to Newfoundland
24 condemn IOUs to chronic under earning." And	Power, surely. So you're not prepared or are
25 then the report goes on, I filed it for the	25 you prepared to concede that it's more
Page	
1 information of the Board. So there's to be no	advantageous for Newfoundland Power to have a
2 doubt in your mind, Ms. Perry, that the type	2 future than a historic?
of test year that a utility can avail itself	3 MS. PERRY:
4 of would be a relevant consideration for	4 A. Not at this point I can't, no, Mr. Johnson,
5 comparing utilities for cost of capital	5 no.
6 purposes, correct?	6 MR. JOHNSON:
7 (11:45 a.m.)	7 Q. We touched on the concept of interim rates
8 MS. PERRY:	8 that are provided for under Section 75 of the
9 A. I will agree that that's what this is saying	9 Public Utilities Act in this province and in
in this report, yes.	the course, in this very GRA process you would
11 MR. JOHNSON:	be aware that Newfoundland Power was concerned
12 Q. And would you depart from what that Edison	with whether the Board would be in a position
112 manage is stating? Describe athornying all	to make necessary determinations on the 2013,
paper is stating? Because otherwise all	-
you're doing is agreeing that it's in the	14 2014 application in a timeframe that would
you're doing is agreeing that it's in the report.	14 2014 application in a timeframe that would 15 allow Newfoundland Power to implement the
you're doing is agreeing that it's in the report. 16 MS. PERRY:	14 2014 application in a timeframe that would 15 allow Newfoundland Power to implement the 16 change in rates, and so therefore, although
you're doing is agreeing that it's in the report. 16 MS. PERRY: 17 A. Well I take it that, you know, this is a	14 2014 application in a timeframe that would 15 allow Newfoundland Power to implement the 16 change in rates, and so therefore, although 17 the application has now been withdrawn because
you're doing is agreeing that it's in the report. 16 MS. PERRY: 17 A. Well I take it that, you know, this is a reputable company doing this report, so I can	14 2014 application in a timeframe that would 15 allow Newfoundland Power to implement the 16 change in rates, and so therefore, although 17 the application has now been withdrawn because 18 it got worked out otherwise, but Newfoundland
you're doing is agreeing that it's in the report. MS. PERRY: A. Well I take it that, you know, this is a reputable company doing this report, so I can read what they're saying, but for me to make	14 2014 application in a timeframe that would 15 allow Newfoundland Power to implement the 16 change in rates, and so therefore, although 17 the application has now been withdrawn because 18 it got worked out otherwise, but Newfoundland 19 Power applied for interim rates and they
you're doing is agreeing that it's in the report. MS. PERRY: A. Well I take it that, you know, this is a reputable company doing this report, so I can read what they're saying, but for me to make the assessment myself with my own personal	2014 application in a timeframe that would allow Newfoundland Power to implement the change in rates, and so therefore, although the application has now been withdrawn because it got worked out otherwise, but Newfoundland Power applied for interim rates and they stated that if Newfoundland Power was unable
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	Page 101	Page 103
1 are aware of that application?	1	and I've read limiting its use to unusually
2 MS. PERRY:	2	dyer circumstances. And I'd like just to
3 A. Oh yes, I'm aware.	3	know, obviously it seems to me, as a CFO, that
4 MR. JOHNSON:	4	it would be much better to have accessed
5 Q. And you would have recommende		interim rates than to be put to a jurisdiction
6 application, no doubt.	6	where there was impediments in the way of
7 MS. PERRY:	7	getting interim rates, would you not agree?
8 A. Yes.		PERRY:
9 MR. JOHNSON:		I don't fully understand the fullness of those
10 Q. Okay, and in terms of the ability of		jurisdictions, so, but in isolation I do agree
Newfoundland Power to apply for inter-		with interim rates to be filed, yes, I do.
to the Board, how was that a benefic	I	JOHNSON:
feature for Newfoundland Power and		And that's like agreeing that the lights are
investors?	14	on. But I mean, what I'm asking, would you
15 MS. PERRY:	15	agree that there isthat the ability to seek
		interim rates in an unimpeded fashion is a
16 A. Can you repeat the question, Mr. Johnson		•
17 MR. JOHNSON:	17	benefit, an advantage to Newfoundland Power
18 Q. The ability of Newfoundland Power to		over a situation where there were impediments
19 Section 75 of the Public Utilities Act		to it seeking interim relief.
apply for interim rates, how was that		
beneficial feature for Newfoundland Po		Mr. Chairman, I would agree that interim rates
22 its investors?	22	is, as I said I agree with in that it allows
23 MS. PERRY:	23	Newfoundland Power the opportunity to earn a
24 A. I think the use of interim rates is a		reasonable return in a specific year. Without
25 mechanism that is used when rates are r	not set 25	that or if there were impediments of some sort
	Page 102	Page 104
at the beginning of a test period. In o	ur 1	that prevented Newfoundland Power a reasonable
2 case right here, we were going into 2	2013 2	opportunity to earn its return, yes, I would
3 without final rates, so it was viewed tha	it an 3	agree that would be a worse situation than not
4 appropriate way to deal with that was	s to 4	having an opportunity to earn your return.
5 declare the rates interim on January 1st.	5 MR.	JOHNSON:
6 MR. JOHNSON:	6 Q.	Newfoundland Power by law in this jurisdiction
7 Q. Would you have concerns if there	were 7	must seek prior approval for capital budget
8 legislative barriers to Newfoundland Po	ower's 8	expenditures, you're aware of that?
9 ability to apply for interim rates?		PERRY:
10 MS. PERRY:	10 A.	Yes, I am aware.
11 A. At a high level I think I would be conce	erned, 11 MR.	JOHNSON:
if I was going into a year without certa		And the prior approval of capital budgets is
around final rates, so I'm not quite sur	-	something that's referenced, you'll agree with
understand the question.	14	me by the bond rating agencies in Newfoundland
15 MR. JOHNSON:	15	Power's case?
16 Q. Well, I'll put it to you and it's not an iss		
17 I'll get in deeply with you, Ms. Perry, b		Yes, I would agree.
will be bringing it up with some oth		JOHNSON:
19 witnesses here in this case, but in some		And why is the prior approval scheme seen to
20 United States cases, it's certainly wi		be of benefit to Newfoundland Power?
21 regulatory lag concerns which I will a		
	21 1/13.1	
122 address that in some states utilities or	'e 22 A	Well I think any time you're spending money
22 address, that in some states utilities ar		Well I think any time you're spending money,
23 allowed to petition for interim rate relie	ef, 23	having permission to do so is rule number one,
	ef, 23 24	

Page 105 this Board as opposed to being so far down the 1 2 construction of an asset and determining that

it was disallowed. So obviously it's better 3 to get permission to spend money prior to 4

spending. 5

6 MR. JOHNSON:

Q. And would you consider that whether a utility 7 is subject to a prior approval process that 8

that is a factor that the Board should 9

10 consider in comparing risks between utilities?

11 MS. PERRY:

12 A. It can certainly be a factor, but I think it's 13 in context of how it's been working as well, I suspect. If a jurisdiction is set up such 14 that approval is not sought prior but after 15

16 and there have been on issues with respect to

recovery of prudent costs, then I think that 17 levels the playing field somewhat. 18

19 MR. JOHNSON:

Q. But it's not as safe as a prior approval 20 scheme for the utility, is it? 21

22 MS. PERRY:

A. I would agree, I think it's worthy to have 23 prior approval before, yes. 24

25 KELLY, Q.C.:

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Q. Mr. Chairman, many of these questions are hugely hypothetical in terms of, if my friend

3 really wants to get into this kind of a discussion, it really should be with the 4

expert testimony witnesses and be able to put 5

to them the precise parameters of some other 6

7 jurisdiction, if that's the case. This 8

witness has said, you know, she doesn't have expertise in other American jurisdictions.

10 MR. JOHNSON:

11 Q. Mr. Chairman, I have not embarked on bringing

Ms. Perry through the American examples in the 12 record, but I think it is certainly material 13

to ask this witness of her view of some of

15 these regulatory features that exist in this

jurisdiction because they are, for instance, 16 referred to in the company's own evidence in 17

their exhibits that are attached to their 18

19 application from Moody's and DBRS and I think

it's good to get an on the ground assessment 20

from the witness as to what the benefits are 21 22 to the utility of these, so I'm just going

down through them one at a time, I'm not 23

bringing her through, you know, Vectren or 24 25

Consolidated and I don't understand why Mr.

Kelly should interrupt me.

2 CHAIRMAN:

Q. Carry on. 3

4 MR. JOHNSON:

5 Q. Regarding litigation, Ms. Perry, would it be

Page 107

fair to say that Newfoundland Power is not 6

involved in much litigation?

8 MS. PERRY:

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A. I would say that's a fair observation, yes.

10 MR. JOHNSON:

Q. So that would obviously not be something that 11 you and your team would have to devote much 12

time and attention to?

14 MS. PERRY:

A. That's correct. 15

16 MR. JOHNSON:

Q. You are aware with the concept of accelerated 17

depreciation for tax purposes? 18

19 MS. PERRY:

A. You would have to explain that one a little 20

bit to me, Mr. Johnson. 21

22 MR. JOHNSON:

23 Q. Well I understand that from time to time

governments, to stimulate the economy, will

permit companies to write down assets quicker

Page 108 in an effort to stimulate the economy, you 1

know, sort of a stimulus type mechanism, and

that would have benefits to utilities, I take 3

it, and their investors, would it not? If you 4

5 were allowed to write down an asset for tax

purposes more quickly? 6

7 MS. PERRY:

A. If we were allowed to write down the assets 8

more quickly for tax purposes, that would tend 9

to lower Newfoundland Power's effective tax 10

11 rate, I would agree, yes.

12 MR. JOHNSON:

13 Q. And in terms of this Board's determining

whether, because as Newfoundland Power has 14

indicated in response to the Board's staff

questions, Newfoundland Power has said that

amongst other things an essential

characteristic of a fair return is that it is

commensurate with that available on

investments in comparable risk enterprises.

And would you, in the utility context, agree with me that some of the factors to be

considered would be competition, whether it's

competition that's faced by the utility?

25 MS. PERRY:

Page 109	Page 111
1 A. Yes.	environment to be generally supportive and I
2 MR. JOHNSON:	2 mean, we've heard evidence from an American
3 Q. What sector the particular utility would fall	witness in the last GRA, Mr. Cicchetti who
4 into, whether it be transmission,	4 characterized it, and you will recall Mr.
distribution, vertically integrated.	5 Cicchetti testified, he recalled it as
6 MS. PERRY:	6 exceptional regulation, and heand as well
7 A. Well I think it would be a consideration, yes.	the bond rating agencies, for instance Moody's
8 MR. JOHNSON:	8 talks about how Canada is a very good
	9 regulatory environment, always considered this
9 Q. Level of non-regulated business? 10 MS. PERRY:	
11 A. Yes, I would agree.	would it be just considered generally
12 MR. JOHNSON:	12 supportive?
13 Q. Test year type?	13 MS. PERRY:
14 MS. PERRY:	14 A. Well again, Mr. Chairman, I'd hate to try to
15 A. That one I'm not sure about, but -	interpret Mr. Ludlow's words andbut it
16 MR. JOHNSON:	wasn't meant that it was negative, it
17 Q. Type and number of customers?	17 certainly, from Mr. Ludlow's perspective, was
18 MS. PERRY:	in relation to other jurisdictions that he's
19 A. I think customer profile could be a	been in and on a relative basis it was
20 consideration, yes.	20 comparable to the regulatory support in other
21 MR. JOHNSON:	jurisdictions, so I didn't see it as a
22 Q. So for instance in Newfoundland Power's case,	22 negative, but I think we all agree that we
it's largely residential, commercial and not	have a supportive regulatory environment.
exposed to industrial, that would be spoken	24 MR. JOHNSON:
about as a positive in Newfoundland Power's	25 Q. Okay. Regarding weather normalization, Ms.
Page 110	Page 112
Page 110 1 risk profile. Do you share that assessment?	Page 112 Perry, Newfoundland Power has full weather
1	Ç
risk profile. Do you share that assessment?	Perry, Newfoundland Power has full weather
1 risk profile. Do you share that assessment? 2 MS. PERRY:	Perry, Newfoundland Power has full weather normalization protection and Ms. Perry if
1 risk profile. Do you share that assessment? 2 MS. PERRY: 3 A. Was it said by someone, Mr. Johnson, or -	Perry, Newfoundland Power has full weather normalization protection and Ms. Perry if Newfoundland Power lost weather normalization
1 risk profile. Do you share that assessment? 2 MS. PERRY: 3 A. Was it said by someone, Mr. Johnson, or - 4 MR. JOHNSON:	Perry, Newfoundland Power has full weather normalization protection and Ms. Perry if Newfoundland Power lost weather normalization protection, like it's had for many years and
1 risk profile. Do you share that assessment? 2 MS. PERRY: 3 A. Was it said by someone, Mr. Johnson, or - 4 MR. JOHNSON: 5 Q. Well it's said by your rating agencies.	Perry, Newfoundland Power has full weather normalization protection and Ms. Perry if Newfoundland Power lost weather normalization protection, like it's had for many years and I'm not advocating that, but Newfoundland
1 risk profile. Do you share that assessment? 2 MS. PERRY: 3 A. Was it said by someone, Mr. Johnson, or - 4 MR. JOHNSON: 5 Q. Well it's said by your rating agencies. 6 MS. PERRY:	Perry, Newfoundland Power has full weather normalization protection and Ms. Perry if Newfoundland Power lost weather normalization protection, like it's had for many years and I'm not advocating that, but Newfoundland Power's risk profile, what would happen to it
1 risk profile. Do you share that assessment? 2 MS. PERRY: 3 A. Was it said by someone, Mr. Johnson, or - 4 MR. JOHNSON: 5 Q. Well it's said by your rating agencies. 6 MS. PERRY: 7 A. Yes, it was said by the rating agencies, yes.	Perry, Newfoundland Power has full weather normalization protection and Ms. Perry if Newfoundland Power lost weather normalization protection, like it's had for many years and I'm not advocating that, but Newfoundland Power's risk profile, what would happen to it in that instance?
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1 risk profile. Do you share that assessment? 2 MS. PERRY: 3 A. Was it said by someone, Mr. Johnson, or - 4 MR. JOHNSON: 5 Q. Well it's said by your rating agencies. 6 MS. PERRY: 7 A. Yes, it was said by the rating agencies, yes. 8 MR. JOHNSON: 9 Q. And you would agree with their assessment that 10 that's a risk positive for Newfoundland Power?	Perry, Newfoundland Power has full weather normalization protection and Ms. Perry if Newfoundland Power lost weather normalization protection, like it's had for many years and I'm not advocating that, but Newfoundland Power's risk profile, what would happen to it in that instance? MS. PERRY: A. Well certainly the weather normalization smooths, for a lack of a better word,
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Multi-Page TM **January 15, 2013** NL Power Inc. 2013 GRA Page 113 Page 115 would increase, would it not, your risk 1 1 MS. PERRY: 2 profile, do you think? A. Yes. 3 MS. PERRY: 3 MS. GLYNN: A. Relative to other utilities with a substantial O. And that will be entered as Information Item heating load? Yes, I would agree. 5 5 No. 12. 6 MR. JOHNSON: 6 MR. JOHNSON: Q. Yes, okay. And would you agree with me that Q. We asked in that GRA a few years ago to 7 7 provide a table basically setting out weather normalization reserve has played a 8 8 significant role over the years in reducing adjustments to the weather normalization 9 9 10 earnings volatility of Newfoundland Power? 10 account and the rate stabilization account was also added as a percentage of return on equity 11 MS. PERRY: 11 for each year from 1986 to the present, along A. Can you repeat the question, Mr. Johnson? 12 12 with any appropriate commentary. And a table 13 MR. JOHNSON: 13 was provided showing adjustments to the 14 Q. Would it be fair to say that the weather 14 normalization reserve has played a significant weather normalization account and the rate 15 15 16 role over the years in reducing the earnings stabilization account as a percentage of 16 volatility of Newfoundland Power? return on equity for the period 1986 to 2006, 17 17 and it shows that the total adjustments 18 MS. PERRY: 18 express as a percentage of return on equity 19 A. In isolation I would agree, yes, but relative 19 to other utilities, no, because others have a vary from a negative 11.2 to a positive 11.6 20 20 weather normalization reserve as well, so on a and it points out an average for the entire 21 21 period of one percent. But if we see on the 22 relative basis, we're equal. 22 chart next to it or following it and I 23 23 MR. JOHNSON: appreciate this just brings us up to 2006, but Q. You're talking about other jurisdictions in 24 24 it would save having to ask you to do it 25 Canada? 25 Page 114 Page 116 again, but you do see, for instance, 2004, 1 MS. PERRY: 1 A. I am. 2 2005, 2006 some significant balances there in 2 the weather normalization. So that would be a 3 3 MR. JOHNSON: significant issue for volatility of earnings, Q. Not the United States, right? 4 5 MS. PERRY: 5 at least on a year to year basis, right? A. I haven't done a survey of the ones in United 6 MS. PERRY: 6 7 States, but I do believe if we go to Appendix 7 A. Yes, I would agree, which is why we applied B, to Ms. McShane's evidence in which she and we have a weather normalization account. 8 8 outlines all of the comparable utilities, 9 9 MR. JOHNSON: within that a number of utilities do have a Q. And the earnings volatility is another way of 10 10 saying, you know, your earnings are up and 11 weather normalization reserve in the United 11 down in a particular year on account of States, yes, or some form of weather variance 12 12 something like this, and would--if 13 reserves. 13 Newfoundland Power did not have this weather 14 MR. JOHNSON: 14 Q. But you're also aware that quite a number do normalization protection, its risk would go up 15 15 as an investment? not? 16 16 17 MS. PERRY: 17 MS. PERRY: A. I believe nine of the thirteen utilities in A. Again, relative to other utilities with the 18 18 19 Ms. McShane's evidence had it and that's all weather normalization reserves that have, 19 would have similar sales profile like I'm aware of. 20 20 Newfoundland Power, yes, everything else being 21 MR. JOHNSON: 21 equal, I would agree that the weather would Q. Well I'll take that up with Ms. McShane, not 22 22

23

24

25 MR. JOHNSON:

factor into the volatility in Newfoundland

Power's sales and hence earnings.

2008 GRA, CANP-141?

23

24

25

you. But if you could turn to the answer,

again this was a cross aide, which is from the

Page 1

- Q. Regarding PEVDA, the PEVDA account came into 1 2 force January 1st, 2010, do you recall that?
- 3 MS. PERRY:
- A. Yes, that is correct.
- 5 MR. JOHNSON:
- Q. And prior to PEVDA, Ms. Perry, I think you
 - will confirm that Newfoundland Power was at
- risk for any degree of variability and/or 8
- predictability that was associated with 9
- 10 forecasting pension expense, correct?
- 11 MS. PERRY:

13

- A. Yes, I would agree; however, as we laid out in 12
 - the 2009 evidence, the predictability of the
- pension expense had changed substantially from 14
- where it was prior to 2008. 15
- 16 MR. JOHNSON:
- Q. Okay, and you did point that out in the last 17
- case, but in terms of the variability that 18
- existed prior to that account's establishment, 19
- that variability could arise, I take it, from 20
- falling or a rising pension asset values, 21
- 22 right?
- 23 MS. PERRY:
- A. Yes, that is correct.
- 25 MR. JOHNSON:

- Q. And changes in the discount rate as well,
- right? 2
- 3 MS. PERRY:

1

- A. Yes.
- 5 MR. JOHNSON:
- Q. Okay, and how would the forecasting of pension 6
- expense be impacted by the falling or rising 7
- pension asset values? 8
- 9 MS. PERRY:
- A. Just so I understand the question, Mr. 10
- 11 Johnson, how would the pension expense be
- impacted? 12
- 13 MR. JOHNSON:
- 14 Q. How could the forecasting of the pension
- 15 expense be impacted by falling or rising
- pension asset values? 16
- 17 MS. PERRY:
- A. Well certainly if we forecast forward our 18
- pension expense, we take the best available 19
- information we have, which would be the most 20
- current discount rates and the current earned 21
- 22 return on those assets for that particular
- year, we would then look to the future, with 23
- 24 future discount rates and the expected return 25
 - on the assets and apply that to determining

- 17 Page 119 the forecast pension costs for the upcoming
 - 2 vear.

1

- 3 MR. JOHNSON:
- Q. And in terms of--and so the rising or falling 4
- pension asset values, that was always there 5
- prior to discount rate variability, right? 6
- 7 MS. PERRY:
- 8 A. Yes, but I would state that 2008 was a big hit
- to the return. We lost 16 percent in 2008, so 10
 - we had not experienced that prior.
- 11 MR. JOHNSON:
- Q. But there's been years, I'm sure, in the past 12
 - where there's been sizable losses and sizable
- gains. 14
- 15 MS. PERRY:

13

- 16 A. I would have to check way back in history, but
- certainly not in my recollection. 17
- 18 MR. JOHNSON:
- 19 Q. Could I turn you to -- I won't turn you there,
- I'll just reflect it for the record. The 20
- Commissioners can read it at some point. But 21
- 22 in CA-NP-596 I asked Newfoundland Power to
- 23 please quantify -- well, we can go there. I
 - asked Newfoundland Power to quantify in dollar
- terms the amount of risk that Newfoundland 25
- Page 118

24

2

- Power was exposed to for each of the five 1
 - years prior to the PEVDA and then I was told
 - 3 that Newfoundland Power has never performed an
 - assessment on the basis requested. So I've 4

 - got another aide that we can go to that might 5
 - shed light on this. And Ms. McShane (sic), 6
 - 7 this -- oh, I'm sorry, Ms. Perry. Ms. Perry,
 - is there any doubt, I mean, are we really in 8
 - 9 any dispute at all that the PEVDA did reduce
 - risk that Newfoundland Power previously had 10
 - 11 been subject to?

12 MS. PERRY:

18

22

- A. Mr. Chairman, during the last rate case when 13
- 14 we applied for the PEVDA, circumstances had
- changed. Prior to that period, the volatility 15
- in discount rates just simply wasn't there. 16
- 17 We saw a two percent movement in discount
 - rates in one year in 2008. So we had not seen
- 19 those movements prior. So, not having that
- 20 level of volatility with assets and discount
- 21 rates, you're given an opportunity to project
 - forward with some reasonable basis. But in
- 23 2008, and hence when we came forward in 2009,
- 24 the world had substantially changed with
- 25 respect to the volatility with discount rates.

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- So I'm not sure that I will agree that I was 1
- 2 exposed to the same level of risk because the
- risk wasn't there prior. This variability 3
- wasn't there prior to this time period. 4
- 5 MR. JOHNSON:
- Q. But there was certainly -- there was still 6
- certainly forecast risk prior to that 7
- 8 volatility of some degree, but -
- 9 MS. PERRY:
- A. Certainly. 10
- 11 MR. JOHNSON:
- Q. but now, Ms. Perry, you confirm for us that 12
 - that risk has been totally eliminated, right,
- 14 by the PEVDA?
- 15 MS. PERRY:

- A. Currently, yes, I would agree. 16
- 17 MR. JOHNSON:
- O. Right.
- 19 MS. PERRY:
- A. But again, risk is a relative thing. Pension 20
- expense deferral accounts are also common with 21
- 22 regulated utilities, so Newfoundland Power is
- certainly no more or less exposed than those 23
- other utilities. 24
- 25 MR. JOHNSON:

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11

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- Q. Who might have them, but I thought that to the
- 2 extent -- to the extent that there was any
- risk at all prior to PEVDA on forecasting 3
- pension expense, that has been taken away, 4
- 5 correct?
- 6 MS. PERRY:
- A. I will agree with that, yes.
- 8 MR. JOHNSON:
- Q. And as I pointed out in this CA-NP-596 when I 9
- referred, Newfoundland Power was asked to 10
 - provide that but they've told me they've never
- performed an assessment on the basis 12
- requested, and so I'd like to bring you to 13
- another answer from the 2010 GRA which would 14
- be Information -- I'm not sure, Ms. Glynn? 15
- 16 MS. GLYNN:
- 17 Q. That hasn't been entered yet, so Information
- Item No. 13. 18
- 19 MR. JOHNSON:
- O. That can be No. 13. That would be the CA-NP-20
- 189. Ms. Perry, this table provided the Pro 21
- forma transfers to or from the Pension Expense 22
- Variance Deferral Account based on the pension 23
- expense for each year from 2004 to 2009 and 24 25
 - so, for instance, in 2004, \$490,000

- 121 Page 123 difference, so the pension expense was a bit 1
 - 2 higher than the test year pension expense in
 - that year. I take it? 3
 - 4 MS. PERRY:

7

10

13

- A. Yes, that's how this particular RFI was 5
- completed. It was completed on the basis that 6
 - the base was the test year in 2004, yes.
- 8 MR. JOHNSON:
- Q. Okay. And so, to put the 490 into 9
 - perspective, if in that particular year, if
- you had a PEVDA, the 490 would have just been 11
- absorbed into the PEVDA and it would not have 12
 - been an extra expense that Newfoundland Power
- would have had to meet over test year forecast 14
- of the pension expense? Would that be right? 15
- 16 MS. PERRY:
- A. Mechanically speaking, I think, yes, that's 17
- right. We didn't have a PEVDA then, but if 18
- you were to base it off of 2004, yes. 19
- 20 MR. JOHNSON:
- Q. And 2005, it was 1.5 million; 2006, but there 21
- 22 might be some early retirements captured into
- that as well, I would take it, early 23
 - retirement packages. Would that be right?
- 25 MS. PERRY:

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- A. Yes, the pension numbers, Mr. Chairman, that 1
 - 2 you're looking at here, the pension expense
 - numbers, are inclusive of an early retirement 3
 - program that we completed in 2005 and I do 4
 - recall at the last hearing where we were 5
 - specifically asked would the PEVDA include 6
 - 7 changes to pension expense that were within
 - management's control and we advised no at that 8
 - time, and certainly an early retirement 9
 - program would be one of those decisions we 10
 - 11 would make and would be within management's 12
 - control. So if you are comparing apples to
 - apples, you would have to remove the early 13 retirement program cost from pension expense 14

 - 15 here because they would not be captured by the
 - 16 PEVDA.
 - 17 (12:15 p.m.)
 - 18 MR. JOHNSON:
 - 19 Q. Well say, 2004, the 490 was not an example of
 - that? 20
- A. No, that was prior to the early retirement 22
- program. 23
- 24 MR. JOHNSON:
- 25 Q. And that's real money. That's \$500,000,

Page 125 right? So that's a risk that you no longer 1

- have to worry about as Newfoundland Power's
- 2 CFO? 3
- 4 MS. PERRY: A. We had the risk. The risk of the exposure was 5
- much more limited than what it is today. 6
- 7 MR. JOHNSON:
- 8 Q. Okay. But back in 2004, I think your evidence
- would confirm that the discount rate issue 9
- 10 bouncing around, that was not an issue then
- because that only arose later, right? 11
- 12 MS. PERRY:
- A. That was later, yes.
- 14 MR. JOHNSON:
- Q. Yes. And now, the volatility and discount 15
- 16 rates are much reduced, I take it?
- 17 MS. PERRY:
- A. From what particular point, Mr. Johnson?
- 19 MR. JOHNSON:
- Q. From the high point before you applied for 20
- 21 this PEVDA.
- 22 MS. PERRY:
- A. We haven't seen the two percent, but I believe 23
- they're about three percent lower still since 24
- the last time we were here. 25

- 1 MR. JOHNSON: Q. Could I turn to the topic of OPEBs, and 2
- particularly page 39, and I'm referring in 3
- particular to Table 3.6 which sets out OPEBs 4
- 5 expense from 2010 to 2014 estimated, and Ms.
- Perry, we see that the OPEBs expense is 6
- 7 forecasted to take about a 1.2 million dollar
- jump in 2013 and stay pretty close to that 8
- number again in 2014. You see that? 9
- 10 MS. PERRY:
- 11 A. Yes, I do.
- 12 MR. JOHNSON:
- 13 Q. Okay. And at footnote 29, which was on the
- following page, at page 310, it says that "the 14
- 15 forecast discount rate for 2013 and 2014 is
- 4.9 percent and is based on current market 16
- 17 indications. The actual discount rate used to
- value the OPEBs obligation and related annual 18
- 19 OPEBs expense is determined at December 31st
- each year" and it indicates "the approximately 20
- 5.6 million dollar increase in OPEBs 21
- obligation as at January 1st, 2012 was 22
- determined by Mercer, the company's 23
- actuaries." What did your actuaries determine 24
- 25 to be the discount rate as at December 31st,

- 2012?
- 2 MS. PERRY:
- A. Well, I have yet to go through that, but I've 3

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Page 128

- been told that I -- but I have to confirm this 4
- because I haven't looked at the assumptions 5
- provided by Mercers -- that it's somewhere 6
- lower than the 490 and closer to the 450. 7
- 8 MR. JOHNSON:
- Q. Okay. So that would -- are you looking to 9
- 10 adjust test year expenses upwards then on
- account of the drop in discount rate? 11
- 12 MS. PERRY:
- A. No, the way that it would operate is that 13
- changes to OPEB would flow through the OPEVDA 14
- or the -15
- 16 MR. JOHNSON:
- Q. So you're not worried about them, but without 17
- the OPEBs you would have been worried about 18
- them and you would have had to file an update, 19
- would you have not, to your evidence? 20
- 21 MS. PERRY:
- 22 A. Well, depending on timing and depending on all
- other cost changes, a consideration would have 23
 - had to have been made, I will agree. I will
- also, for the record, note that our pension 25
- Page 126

1

- assets in our pension plan -- I've not been
- 2 through this, but I've been told that the
- return was higher than our expected return. 3
- So therefore, that will be a positive to 4
- 5 customers. So we have things that go down.
- We have things that go up. And you know, you 6
- 7 have to sort of consider all of them together
- before -- without just one thing in isolation. 8
- 9 MR. JOHNSON:
- Q. Well, Ms. Perry, what would have been -- or 10
- 11 can you put a dollar figure on the expense of
- the impact of -- if as you say, and this will 12
- be subject to confirmation, perhaps you can 13 confirm this by way of an undertaking, what 14
- the discount rate would -- the change in the 15
- 16
 - discount rate down to closer -- did you say to
- 17 4.5 from 4.9?
- 18 MS. PERRY:
- A. It's closer to 4.5. I'd have to get the exact 19
- number. 20
- 21 MR. JOHNSON:
- 22 Q. Okay. And what would that approximate in
- 23 terms of an increase in the cost of annual
- 24 OPEBs expense?
- 25 MS. PERRY:

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Page 130

understand in terms of the impact back on the 1 annual OPEBs expense in Table 3.6? 2

3 MS. PERRY:

4

A. The volatility with respect to OPEBs is more in line with a one percent change in discount 5 rates, is on average about million dollars in 6 7 OPEBs expense. So if we are -- everything

8 else being equal, if we are decreasing our OPEBs expense from 490 to 450, that's 40 basis 9

points. So it's probably 400,000. 10

11 MR. JOHNSON:

Q. Over and above what we see for 2013 expected? 12

13 MS. PERRY:

A. For OPEBs, yes. 14

15 MR. JOHNSON:

O. And a similar amount for 2014?

17 MS. PERRY:

A. Yes, that is correct, assuming all else being 18 19 equal.

20 MR. JOHNSON:

21 Q. Assuming that holds true again. So you say 22

about a half million?

23 MS. PERRY:

A. 400,000, yeah. 24

25 MR. JOHNSON:

Page 129

Q. \$400,000. And Ms. Perry, in the absence of

2 the OPEVA -

3 MS. PERRY:

A. OPEVDA. 4 5 MR. JOHNSON:

Q. PEVDA, you -- Newfoundland Power, at this 6 stage of the rate application, would most 7

definitely be providing an update from Mercers 8

indicating that the discount rate had gone 9

down and the OPEBs expense has gone up, 10

correct, and filing -- and having the new 11

expected OPEBs expense put into your revenue 12

requirement for the test year? 13

14 MS. PERRY:

A. Well actually, this is not completed yet, the 15 16 2011, and I believe the assumptions letter from Mercers, the draft version of it, was 17 received a few days ago, so this is new 18 19 information.

20 MR. JOHNSON:

21

22

23

24

25

Q. It is new, but let us say that the information becomes solidified and it points to a \$400,000 increase in OPEBs expense for 2013 -- and I guess you can update us on what it will be while this proceeding is ongoing?

1 MS. PERRY:

A. It will be simply just one of our costs 2 though, Mr. Johnson. I guess I have concern 3

about just displaying one cost associated with 4

5 Newfoundland Power, but yes, we can get that

number. 6

7 MR. JOHNSON:

Q. Okay. I'm just going to ask an obvious 8 question, Ms. Perry. The obvious question, it 9 seems to me, is that in the absence of the 10 11 OPEVDA, there'd be no two ways around the fact

that if Newfoundland Power was in a general 12

13 rate application and their actuaries had just told them that discount rate is going up and 14

the annual OPEBs expense was going to have --15

or discount rate is going down, so the OPEBs 16 17 annual expense is going up, you'd definitely

be filing an update saying we'd have to change 18

19 the revenue requirement by the four or five

hundred thousand dollars. You wouldn't eat 20

21 that, would you?

22 MS. PERRY:

23 A. I would have to look at in the context of all 24 of our costs. I mean, that's how we would 25 base a decision of whether we would refile a

Page 133	1	Page 135
·	1	1
2 then yes, we would consider refiling.	2	
3 MR. JOHNSON:	3	
4 Q. And getting to the underlying, one part of the	4	1 , 1
5 OPEB is the drug benefit for both employees	5	1 , 1
6 and retirees, correct?	6	, 1
7 MS. PERRY:	7	1
8 A. That is correct, yes.	8	, , ,
9 MR. JOHNSON:	9	
10 Q. And your plan reimburses only for the lowest	10	, 1 , 1
11 price interchangeable drug unless the	11	1 ,
physician indicates no substitution. That's	12	<u>.</u>
what the plan calls for?	13	aware of this, which was late in the day, I
14 MS. PERRY:	14	have to confess, about whether this would be
15 A. That is correct, yes.	15	taken into account in Newfoundland Power's
16 MR. JOHNSON:	16	2013 and 2014 OPEBs expense and before turning
17 Q. And I have brought before you for a cross-	17	to the reply, will it be reflected in the test
18 examination aide a document entitled Maximum -	18	year requirements, this change? Because
19 - or a printout from the Health and Community	19	presumably it'll mean that the cost will be
20 Services website.	20	going down under this price control
21 MS. GLYNN:	21	legislation.
22 Q. That would be Information Item 14.	22	MS. PERRY:
23 MR. JOHNSON:	23	A. So in the response to the question that the
24 Q. 14. This is an introduction to the	24	
Newfoundland and Labrador Interchangeable Drug	25	-
Page 134		Page 136
1 Products Formulary that's printed off		MR. JOHNSON:
relatively recently, in January 2013, and this	2	
gives background on what the province has done		(12:30 p.m.)
in relation to the formulary. And as I		MS. PERRY:
5 understand it, Ms. Perry, essentially what has	5	
6 happened is that a regulation has been brought	6	
7 in, which is also going to be filed as an	0	
	1 7	
_ · ·	7	regulations will or should be expected to
8 information piece. The regulation is brought	8	regulations will or should be expected to reduce the cost of drugs inside the program.
8 information piece. The regulation is brought 9 under the Pharmaceutical Act, as I understand	8 9	regulations will or should be expected to reduce the cost of drugs inside the program. So, the theory, and conceptually this is true,
information piece. The regulation is brought under the Pharmaceutical Act, as I understand it, and the impact is that the province	8 9 10	regulations will or should be expected to reduce the cost of drugs inside the program. So, the theory, and conceptually this is true, that the less you have to pay for drugs, then
8 information piece. The regulation is brought 9 under the Pharmaceutical Act, as I understand 10 it, and the impact is that the province 11 basically has brought in price controls on	8 9 10 11	regulations will or should be expected to reduce the cost of drugs inside the program. So, the theory, and conceptually this is true, that the less you have to pay for drugs, then the lower your health care trend rate should
information piece. The regulation is brought under the Pharmaceutical Act, as I understand it, and the impact is that the province basically has brought in price controls on generic drugs, right?	8 9 10 11 12	regulations will or should be expected to reduce the cost of drugs inside the program. So, the theory, and conceptually this is true, that the less you have to pay for drugs, then the lower your health care trend rate should be, all else being equal. So I had a further
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January 15, 2013 Page 137 trying to summarize the impact that this could 1 2 have on our health care trend rate and they 3 basically say that it's just simply not practical to forecast the impact because we 4 5 have no claims experience. We have no proof, for lack of a better word, as to what this 6 legislation is actually going to mean for our 7 8 plan. And so it would, I guess, be premature 9 to reduce the health care trend rate at the 10 expense of having to really increase it by a further amount in the future, if in fact it's 11 12 not going to result in a reduction in our 13 health care trend rate. So the approach is 14 going to be that we will monitor our results and hopefully it will reduce our costs and if 15 16 it reduces our cost, it will be reflected in our OPEBs expense and that will be reflected 17 through the OPEVDA again. 18 19 MR. JOHNSON: Q. But I guess the -- all other things being 20 equal, this would be expected to reduce the 21 22 actual OPEBs cost in 2013, 2014? Would that 23 be a fair statement? Because of the

introduction of the legislation. 24

25 MS. PERRY:

24 MR. JOHNSON:

25

A. There are many moving parts, because obviously 1 2 if 2013 and '14 are high price increases with 3 the drugs themselves, regardless of what 4 percentage you pay, the drug cost may actually 5 go up. So again, there's many variables and judgments that are applied when you look 6 7 forward. So one of the best indications of 8 where the rate is going is based on experience 9 and Mercer's view that it's, from a timing 10 perspective, it's premature to actually 11 project what this is going to mean to us, and 12 just to put it in context, about 60 percent of 13 our plan is geared towards generic drugs 14 roughly today, and this legislation applies to 15 a percentage of those generic drugs. So it's 16 not even applying to all of our drugs. It is 17 a list of drugs, but it's not applying to all 18 the drugs with inside of our plan. But all 19 things being equal, I hope that this will tend 20 to reduce health care trend costs and that 21 will be reflected in future OPEBs expense and 22 that will certainly return to customers when 23 that happens through the OPEVDA.

Page 139 OPEBs expense for 2013E and 2104E when -- in 2 Table 3.6, those numbers were developed when? 3 MS. PERRY: A. Around August, September when we filed. 4 5 MR. JOHNSON:

Q. And when were you aware of the legislation? 7 MS. PERRY:

A. Well, I wasn't aware until the RFI, but the plan administrator was aware of it and our 9 10 service provider, which was Blue Cross, actually implement -- it's automatic that they 11 12 get these legislation changes and so it was implemented inside of our plan in April. 13

14 MR. JOHNSON:

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Q. When -- how long are the actuaries saying it 15 16 will take -- I mean, let's put it this way. If this information had been known to them say 17 last year, presumably this number for 2013 and 18 19 2014E would be different than what we're seeing now. We presume that because there's 20 been a change, I take it, right? I mean, how 21 22 much time would be required to figure it out? 23 MS. PERRY:

A. No, I -- my conversation with Blue Cross, 24 because I asked that, when will we start 25

Page 140 seeing potentially -- it would still be hard 1 2 to have a linear relationship because so much goes on inside of a plan, but how long would 3 it take, and he said, you know, it probably 4 5 would take a couple of years because, you know, it's the take up of the drugs, the 6 7 nature of the drugs, just trying to get some trend lines with the usage and the cost of the 8 drugs. And I believe the 4.5 is also not an 9 absolute number. It's within a range of 10 11 return which is the health care trend rate assumption. So, I think if we start to see 12 13 trends that are lower than that, we'll bowl to 14 reducing the trend over the next several years. But I suspect it'll take a couple of 15 vears. 16 17 MR. JOHNSON:

Q. Have you received anything in writing from 18 19 Mercers indicating what their opinion is in terms of quantification at this time of the 20 changes, of the effect of the regulation? 21 22 MS. PERRY: 23

A. Mr. Chairman, I asked Mercers to provide me 24 their opinion and the response that we 25 provided in CA-NP-683 is substantially

Q. So the numbers that we are using for your

January 15, 2013 Mu	lti-Page [™]	NL Power Inc. 2013 GRA
Page 14	1	Page 143
confirmed with Mercers that it was unpractical		Towards the end, Chris.
2 to quantify at this time.		OHNSON:
3 MR. JOHNSON:	3 Q.	And I'm at the although the page is not
4 Q. Did they provide a letter or a report in that	4	numbered, it's the second page in under the
5 regard?	5	paragraph "modestly weaker financial metrics
6 MS. PERRY:	6	expected in future." And this is where, as
7 A. No, they did not.	7	you correctly point out, they state that
8 MR. JOHNSON:	8	"Newfoundland Power's ratios continue to be
9 Q. It was just a telephone call?	9	somewhat weaker than those of other BAA rated
10 MS. PERRY:	10	peers BAA1 rated peers, predominantly
11 A. It was a telephone call. I'm not sure if they	11	engaged in transmission and distribution such
followed up with an e-mail to confirm, but it	12	as Fortis Alberta Inc., FAB, a sister company,
was a telephone call.	13	Connecticut Light and Power, Orange and
14 MR. JOHNSON:	14	Rockland Utilities and Public Service Electric
15 Q. With respect to the issue of credit ratings,	15	and Gas Company. We expect Fortis Alberta to
Ms. Perry, you indicated when you testified on	16	generate cash flow plus interest to cash flow,
direct at page 152 -	17	interest coverage in the four times range and
18 MS. PERRY:	18	CFO pre-working capital to debt of about18
19 A. Where are we? Oh, on testimony, okay.	19	percent going forward. CLP, O&R, PSE&G have
20 MR. JOHNSON:	20	reported cash flow interest coverage in the
21 Q. You testified that starting at the bottom	21	four times to five times range" et cetera.
of 151, "I would be surprised if Moody's or	22	And then they say "in contrast, we expect
DBRS were to indicate an appropriate level of	23	Newfoundland Power to generate cash flow
24 ROE for Newfoundland Power one way or the	24	interest coverage in the low three range and
other" and then you say "what Moody's has	25	cash flow to debt in the 15 percent to 17
Page 14	12	Page 144
indicated quite clearly is that Newfoundland	1	percent range. These figures are modestly
2 Power's financial metrics are somewhat weaker	2	weaker than Newfoundland Power's 2010 results
than those of its peers which they state are	3	and reflect, in part, Newfoundland Power's
Fortis Alberta, Connecticut Light and Power,	4	2011 allowed ROE of 8.38, down from 9 in
5 Orange and Rockland Utilities in New York and		2010."
6 Public Service Electric and Gas in New	6	So when I heard you state that in your
7 Jersey." And Ms. Perry, but you did not go on	7	direct, I thought that Moody's had expressed
8 to say however that Moody's has not expressed	8	some concern, but clearly they're not
9 any concern about that, right? I mean, that's	9	expressing any concern about that, right?
normal that your metrics have been less than	10 MS. P	
those peers?	1	As I said, they're indicating that we're
12 MS. PERRY:	12	already lower than our peers and they expect
13 A. I'm not sure I would call it normal, but it's	13	us to be a certain range, but we're already
certainly been existing for a while, yes.	14	lower than our peers, yes.
15 MR. JOHNSON:		OHNSON:
16 Q. But it's not a concern of Moody's?	1	And that's their expectation. You've been
17 MS. PERRY:	17	lower than your peers for a while. I mean, I
18 A. I wouldn't go as far to say it's not a	18	remember having this discussion with you back
19 concern. The fact that they mention that we	19	in the last rate case, right?
20 are weaker than our peers is obviously an item	20 MS. P.	_
21 of interest to Moody's.		Yes, and the proposal in this application, in
22 MR. JOHNSON:	21 A. 22	my view, puts us pretty square into where
23 Q. Can I turn you to the Moody's July 19 July	23	Moody's is saying we should be, because our
24 2011 opinion at Exhibit 4?	24	CFO to interest is 3.4. They're saying low
25 KELLY, Q.C.:	24 25	threes. And they're saying CFO to debt, we
23 NELLI, Q.C.:	23	unces. And they le saying Cro to debt, we

and I think, actually, for 2014E on Exhibit 3,

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To		v 15, 2013 Multi
ја	nuar	,
		Page 145
1		expect to be in the range of 15 to 17 and our
2		proposal is 16.4. So I think we're square
3		into what they expect us to achieve.
4	•	5 p.m.)
5		OHNSON:
6	Q.	Well, in fact, Ms. Perry, if you turn to your
7		evidence at Exhibit 3, keeping in mind what
8		they said that we expect Newfoundland Power to
9		have cashflow interest coverage in the low
10		three times range -
11	MS. P	ERRY:
12	A.	Sorry, where are you, Mr. Johnson?
13	MR. J	OHNSON:
14	Q.	I'm just reminding ourselves that they say,
15		"In contrast, we expect Newfoundland Power to
16		generate cashflow interest coverage in the low
17		three times range, and cashflow to debt in the
18		15 to 17 range". Just turn over to Exhibit 3
19		for 2013. It seems to me that that indicates
20		that in 2013, even without any rate increase
21		at all, in line 38, cashflow to interest is
22		3.2, and cashflow to debt is 15.5, so that
23		would still meet Moody's criteria, correct?
24	MS. P	ERRY:
25	A.	Yes, but certainly, Mr. Chairman, I'll
		Page 146
1		acknowledge that it's on the low end of the
2		range and that's not necessarily the place
3		that you try to operate the business at, which
Ι.,		. 1 1 6 4

2 we still see cashflow to interest times coverage, assuming that there's no rate relief 3 at all granted, of cashflow to interest 4 5 coverage of 3, okay. Mind you, cashflow to debt is a little -7 MS. PERRY: A. Are you back on Exhibit 3? Sorry, I was -9 MR. JOHNSON: Q. Yeah, I just wanted to remind ourselves for a 11 second. 12 MS. PERRY: A. Okay. 14 MR. JOHNSON: o. 2014E shows cashflow to debt of 3 times, and 15 16 cashflow to debt of 13.7. 17 MS. PERRY: A. Yes. 19 MR. JOHNSON: Q. And in Moody's now at Exhibit 4, what could 20 21 change the rating down - there you go. 22 Moody's say, "We consider a downward revision of Newfoundland Power's rating to be unlikely 23 in the near term. However, Newfoundland 24 Power's rating would likely be downgraded if 25 46 we perceived a meaningful reduction in the 1 2 3

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1

is a downward slope of matrix. 5 MR. JOHNSON: Q. But my point being that they said cashflow 6 7 interest coverage in the low 3 range, and cashflow to debt in the 15 to 17, and I'm just 8 telling you the 2013 E establishes that, 9 correct? 10 11 MS. PERRY: A. I will agree, and I will agree that if you 12 13 look to 2014, we're down to 3, and 13.7, which 14 is below the level indicated by Moody's.

15 MR. JOHNSON: Q. As a matter of fact, there's hardly any 16 17 difference between 2012 and 2013 at all, from the point of view of those matrices, and 2012 18 was a year completely consistent with your 19 financial integrity, was it not? 20 21 MS. PERRY: A. Yes, we've maintained our credit ratings, I 22

will agree. 23

24 MR. JOHNSON:

Q. Yeah. If you could turn back to Exhibit 4, 25

level of regulatory support, combined with weaker liquidity and a sustained deterioration of Newfoundland Power's financial matrix, such as cashflow interest coverage of less than 2 times, 2.6 times, cashflow to debt in the low teens", and I think RCF, that's free cashflow to debt below 9. Now Ms. Perry, it's obvious that when I read that, that even 2014 without an ounce of rate relief, you're above cashflow interest coverage of 2.6; in fact, you're at 3, and you're just getting into the low teens in cashflow to debt. 14 MS. PERRY:

A. So back to the Moody's report where it says, 15 you know, credit downgrade could be possible 16 17 with a perceived meaningful reduction in the level of regulatory support, combined with 18 reduced matrix, well, these matrix are, while 19 not outside the range - well, one is outside 20 21 the range because 13.7 is pretty well -

22 MR. JOHNSON:

Q. I grant you, that's a low teen. 23

24 MS. PERRY:

25 A. It's a low teen. So, you know, one is out,

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	Page 14	19	Page 151
1	and the other is deteriorating, and we are	1 A	A. I agree that's what the document says.
2	earning a regulated return on equity of 6. 89	2 MR	. JOHNSON:
3	percent on that basis. So I would have	3 (Q. And do you make presentations to Moody's and
4	concern that in this situation Moody's would	4	the bond rating agencies?
5	evaluate that the regulated utility is		PERRY:
6	permitted to earn a return of 6.89 percent in	6 A	A. Yes, I have discussions with them and we try
7	relation to all other utilities earning	7	to meet at least once a year.
8	something above that, so it would be the		. JOHNSON:
9	lowest in the country, combined with these	9 (Q. So in Moody's case, this is the last credit
10	weaker financial matrix, is exactly why I	10	opinion?
11	would address that I would have serious		PERRY:
12	concerns that this would impact Newfoundland		A. Yes.
13	Power's financial integrity.		. JOHNSON:
1	JOHNSON:	I	Q. When did you last meet with Moody's?
15 Q.	. And I grant you that that's not going to be		PERRY:
16	the outcome, but it's illustrative of	16 A	A. I had a discussion with them the latter part
17	something, and that is in terms of that	17	of August prior to filing this Application.
18	cashflow interest coverage of less than 2. 6	l	. JOHNSON:
19	times that Moody's talks about, and they'd	19 (Q. Okay, and did that discussion happen on the
20	have to see that on - they'd have to see that	20	telephone?
21	on a sustained basis, and you wouldn't even		PERRY:
22	get there if this Board decided to throw out	22 A	A. Yes, it did.
23	your entire case and say come back in 2015,		. JOHNSON:
24	and you had to survive on the current rates.	I	Q. And so do you provide them a presentation of
25 MS. 1	PERRY:	25	Newfoundland Power's case, I mean, in terms of
	Page 15	50	Page 152
1 A.	. Which, Mr. Chairman, would be a 6.89 percent	1	- you must provide them with a presentation in
2	rate of return on common equity.	2	paper, in writing?
3 MR. J	JOHNSON:	I	PERRY:
4 Q.	. And I'm not advocating that.	4 4	A. Not in 2012. They had certain changeover in
5 MS. P	PERRY:	5	their staff, which is why I had a telephone
6 A.	. No, but that's what the result is right here	6	conversation with them in August. The plan
7	for 2014. So you've got to take one with the	7	will be that once we understand the outcome of
8	other, and I think it's all considered in	8	this particular rate case, because rate cases
9	Moody's evaluation of how this utility is set	9	are pretty significant to credit rating
10	up for the future. So you can't just look at	10	agencies, that we will arrange a time to meet
11	matrix in isolation of the full context of how	11	with both DBRS and Moody's and walk them
12	Newfoundland Power and what Newfoundland Power	12	through the order and the impact that it will
13	could earn in that particular year.	13	have on Newfoundland Power.
14 MR. J	JOHNSON:	14 MR	. JOHNSON:
15 Q.	. No, no, I think we're okay on that, and I take	15 (Q. Yes, okay, and Ms. Perry, do you sit down with
16	it that there is no contest here between us	16	the rating agencies separately in that
17	that Moody's is talking about a two-pronged	17	process, I take it?
18	approach. They'd need to see not just a		PERRY:
19	reduction in the level of regulatory support,	I	A. Oh, yes, yes.
20	but a meaningful reduction in the level of	20 MR	. JOHNSON:
21	regulatory support and than combine that with	101 (And would they come to St. John's for that or

21

22

24

25

23 MS. PERRY:

21 regulatory support, and then combine that with

22 a sustained deterioration, because that's what

23 the document says, and you'll agree that

24 that's what the document says?

25 MS. PERRY:

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Q. And would they come to St. John's for that or

A. Unfortunately, they haven't gotten to St. John's. I usually got to go to Toronto, yes.

would you go to where they are?

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	Page 153		Page 155
1 MR. JOHNSON:	1	1	returns on equity, and in the Board's decision
2 Q. And so when was the last time your	made a 2		at PU-43, page 13, I'd just like to bring you
3 presentation to either DBRS or Moody'	1		to the extract for a second. PU-43, and I'm
4 MS. PERRY:	4		on the wrong page here, I think.
5 A. I would have to confirm, Mr. Johnson.	I don't 5	5 MS. Gl	
6 believe it was in 2012, and as I said,		5 Q.	It was filed as consent exhibit this morning,
7 credit rating agencies went through	1		but you had to get it from the website
8 certainly a bit of turnover inside of t			yesterday.
9 agencies themselves, so we just never		MR. H	•
meetings never happened in '12. I wo	1) Q.	We can get that on the screen. We're just
to confirm when it was in 2011.	11		going to have to hook up the internet again.
12 MR. JOHNSON:	12		DHNSON:
Q. And so - and when you go up there, y	ou don't	3 Q.	I'm looking for the paragraph -
go up there without a presentation to	1	4 MR. H	
them, a written presentation?	15		That's the reasons for decision, Mr. Johnson?
16 MS. PERRY:	16		DHNSON:
17 A. I believe the last time I was there, I d	lid 17	7 Q.	Yes, and I wish I could find the paragraph
have a few slides that I did walk tl	1		that I was going to try to bring you to. Yes,
19 through, yes.	19		I see it. If I could bring you to page 28 of
20 MR. JOHNSON:	20)	the Board's decision, particularly line 5.
21 Q. And would you still have those slides?	21		The Board stated in the passage from line 5 to
22 MS. PERRY:	22		line 12, "That Newfoundland Power bears the
23 A. I'd like to say yes, but I'm not sure.	23		burden of showing that it is appropriate to
24 MR. JOHNSON:	24		discontinue the use of the automatic
25 Q. Would you be able to undertake to pro	ovide us 25	5	adjustment formula, a well established
	Page 154		Page 156
with your most recent presentations to	_	1	regulatory tool that was expected to be used
2 DBRS and Moody's?			to set rates for Newfoundland Power in 2010.
3 KELLY, Q.C.:	3		The Board is not persuaded by the evidence of
4 Q. I'll take that under advisement, Mr. Ch			Ms. McShane as to the historical under-
5 for consideration.	5		performance of the formula, especially given
6 MR. JOHNSON:	6		the evidence of both Ms. Perry and Mr. Ludlow
7 Q. Well, we can - you want to consider w			that the automatic adjustment formula
8 not you're going to object to that?	8		established appropriate rates of return on
9 KELLY, Q.C.:	9		rate rates for almost a decade until the
10 Q. I'm going to consider, (a) what there			extraordinary financial market conditions
isn't, and I'll advise you as to what	1		which developed late in 2008". Ms. Perry, in
position we take with respect to it.			2009, what was it that had led you to judge
simply reserving the position, Mr. Cha	1		that the automatic adjustment formula no
14 MR. JOHNSON:	14		longer gave fair and reasonable ROEs? Was it
15 Q. Okay, all right. Well, perhaps what we			the fact that the long Canada yields were
do is look at it in the anon. Similarl			falling, and with them the fair ROE at a time
would you keep minutes of the meeti	·		when corporate borrowing costs were also
18 Perry?	18		increasing?
19 MS. PERRY:	19	MS. PE	•
20 A. No, there would be no minutes.	20) A.	Yes, that was a factor, no doubt, that the
21 MR. JOHNSON:	21		operation of the formula was producing unfair
22 Q. Let me turn to the AAF. Ms. Perry, in	the 22	2	returns, and I believe around that time a
last General Rate Application, you inc	licated 23	3	couple of other regulatory jurisdictions had
that the Board's ROE formula until around	und that 24		suspended the formula as well, which, you
25 time had been giving fair and reaso	nable 25	5	know, regulatory consensus on the formula was

Page 157 Page 159 becoming weaker around that time. 1 MR. JOHNSON: 2 (1:00 p.m.) Q. Okay, and do you regard the 8 basis point difference, that being the difference between 3 MR. JOHNSON: 3 what the Board ordered at 9 percent, and the Q. And there was a concern, I believe, about the 4 corporate borrowing cost increasing at the 8.92 percent that Dr. Booth's enhanced NEB 5 5 same time? formula would have allowed, do you regard the 6 6 7 MS. PERRY: 8 basis point difference as being material? 7 A. Yes. 8 MS. PERRY: 9 MR. JOHNSON: A. For clarification, Mr. Johnson, Dr. Booth's Q. And we will be taking this up with Ms. 10 display of numbers here, and that would have 10 McShane, and Dr. Booth will be talking about applied to the NEB formula, is it? 11 11 it as well, but are you aware that Ms. McShane 12 12 MR. JOHNSON: recommended an ROE adjustment formula in an O. He's adjusted. I think, to add a credit 13 13 Enbridge Line 9 hearing before the National spread. That's my understanding. He'll be 14 14 Energy Board in 2010, and again in a Gazifere able to speak to it more fully than I, but 15 15 16 hearing before the Regie in 2010, and in both 16 he's put a gloss, I guess, on the NEB formula cases she supplemented the standard formula and he ends up with a higher number than the 17 17 with a 50 percent adjustment to credit spread NEB, say, for 2010. 18 18 changes? Are you aware of that? 19 19 MS. PERRY: A. But my question is in terms of the parameters 20 MS. PERRY: 20 used in the formula, they're the parameters of 21 A. I am aware. I haven't been through it in 21 22 detail, no. 22 the NEB, is it, and not Newfoundland Power, is 23 MR. JOHNSON: 23 what I'm suggesting. Q. Can I take you to Dr. Booth's testimony at 24 MR. JOHNSON: 24 page 68, and this is part of a discussion in 25 Q. Okay. Page 158 Page 160 Dr. Booth's report where he addresses how he 1 MS. PERRY: 1 2 would enhance the adjustment models since so A. Yeah. 3 many were suspended, and he sets out the long 3 MR. JOHNSON: term Canada from 1995 to 2010, and he sets out 4 Q. Okay, well, I want to be careful I don't get 5 the spread between, I believe, the "A" spread in over my waders a great deal on that topic. using Scotia Capital's index, and, I guess, 6 MS. PERRY: 6 7 the utility bond spread, and then he reports A. Yeah. what the NEB formula would produce and he 8 8 MR. JOHNSON: 9 talks about what his suggestion would have Q. And perhaps what I - I was planning, in fact, produced over that period. On the next page, to confer further with Dr. Booth, who's flying 10 10 11 he graphs the results of the standard National 11 back and forth today, because I wanted to Energy Board formula and his enhancement to confer with him prior to closing testimony 12 12 it, but you can see that for 2009, it would 13 13 with Ms. Perry, in any event, so what I think have awarded a fair ROE of 9.39 percent, 14 14 I'll do is take that under advisement and make 15 versus the actual NEB's formula of 8.57 sure that what I'm putting to you is what he 15 percent, or about 55 basis points more. Do would intend for me to put to you. Ms. Perry, 16 16 I guess you'll know that it's getting late in 17 you see that? 17 the day when we're talking about depreciation, 18 MS. PERRY: 18 A. Yes, I do. I saved that for last. At page 163 of the 19 19 transcript when you testified on direct, at 20 MR. JOHNSON: 20 the bottom of page 162, going up to 163, 21 O. And this Board for 2010 decided that a fair 21 having been asked, "What financial impact will 22 and reasonable return for Newfoundland Power 22 the consumer advocate's proposals have on was 9 percent, correct? 23 23 customers", the answer is that, "Well, a 24 MS. PERRY: 24

25

prominent feature of the consumer advocate's

A. That is correct, yes.

Page 161 depreciation proposals include the transfer of 1 2 approximately 70 million dollars net of tax that has been collected from customers in the 3 past to the customers in the future", and I 4 take it you're not implying in any way that 5 6 there is a 70 million dollar revenue 7 requirement impact in this case, are you? 8 MS. PERRY: 9

A. No, not at this rate proceeding. My point was that we are fundamentally taking 70 million that has been collected and incorporating that into lower depreciation rates going forward, which ultimately means it has to be collected from future customers again at some point in the future.

16 MR. JOHNSON:

17 Q. You go on to state, "The proposals have the 18 short effect", or I take it you meant the 19 short term effect -

20 MS. PERRY:

21 A. Yes.

22 MR. JOHNSON:

Q. "Of reducing annual depreciation expense and the revenue requirement by approximately 10 million dollars". What time frame are you

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referring to when you state that it'll have a short term effect?

short term effect?

3 MS. PERRY:

A. If we could go to CA-NP-320. This RFI was 4 5 filed in response to the expected crossover, I guess, of when the revenue requirement 6 associated with moving to ALG would actually 7 be higher than ELG, and for reasons that are 8 pointed out in this RFI, there's many 9 variables that impact the crossover period, 10 11 being rate base growth, in terms of what plant account you're looking at, the estimates for 12 13 retirement and net salvage, and - but we did take an account to illustrate and the 14 15 crossover was 11 - Chris, if you could just go down a bit further, please. So with the 2 16 percent rate base growth analysis, the 17 crossover point was at 11 years. 18

19 MR. JOHNSON:20 O. And at a net plant growth ra

Q. And at a net plant growth rate of 4 percent, the crossover point is 15 years, I think the response says.

23 MS. PERRY:

24 A. Right, for this account, yes.

25 MR. JOHNSON:

1 Q. For this account, and would 11 and 15 years,

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would that be considered short term in Newfoundland Power's judgment?

4 MS. PERRY:

A. Well, I think in response to this RFI, we were 5 trying to make a couple of points. One is 6 that it is 11 years, and so it's not 30 years, 7 and the other point is that - and this is an 8 estimate based on one plant account. So based 9 10 on, I guess, what actually happens in the future, it could be a little bit more, could 11 be a little bit less. The point here is to 12 illustrate that upon moving to the ALG 13 methodology, yes, customer's revenue 14 requirement or the revenue requirement 15 16 associated with depreciation will be lower for a specific period, but not for a long period. 17 I mean, it's 11 years on this one account, and 18 then customers are going to be paying more, 19 and I'll also make a point here that - and 20 throughout those 11 years, Newfoundland 21 22 Power's rate base is actually growing and the return on rate base is actually growing, and 23 the crossover point is estimated to be 11 24

1 MR. JOHNSON:

25

years.

Q. And would you take issue that the governing principles would be principles such as intergenerational equity and the matching principle of cost to when the service is rendered? I mean, that would be the principles through which this matter should be determined?

9 MS. PERRY:

A. I think it's one of the big considerations in 10 11 the fact that the ELG methodology being a more precise methodology, I guess, with respect to 12 breaking out equal life groups, that based on 13 the expert advice from Gannett Fleming that it 14 does match the consumption of the asset with 15 the use of the asset, so it's a better 16 matching certainly of the cost of today with 17 the customers of today, yes. So it certainly 18 is - it is a consideration. 19

20 MR. JOHNSON:

Q. Okay, I think - I'd like to break now. I may have a small bit more for Ms. Perry in the morning, but I'm - if the Chair is fine with it, I'm certainly prepared to yield to my learned friend, Ms. Greene, to ask some

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1 questions prior to me going back to Ms. Perry.	as well as the forecast for 2012, is that
2 MS. GLYNN:	2 correct?
3 Q. Mr. Chair, we have a couple of options at this	3 MS. PERRY:
4 point. We do note that Ms. Perry will have to	4 A. Yes, that is correct.
5 return tomorrow. Ms. Greene has indicated	5 GREENE, Q.C.:
6 that she has about a half hour of questioning,	6 Q. What was the date that was used for actual
7 so we could take a five minute break now and	7 information in preparing the forecast? You
8 complete that half hour, or we could break for	8 must have had a cut off date for actuals.
9 today and complete Ms. Perry tomorrow morning.	9 What was that date?
There would be Ms. Greene, any follow-up by	10 MS. PERRY:
Mr. Johnson, and then, of course, any follow-	11 A. I believe it to be June, but that would be
up by Newfoundland Power tomorrow morning for	subject to check. I believe it was June.
13 Ms. Perry.	13 GREENE, Q.C.:
14 CHAIRMAN:	Q. So we have - in your forecast for '12, '13,
15 Q. Why don't we forego the break and carry on?	and '14, we have actual data for '12 to June,
Do you want to do that?	16 you believe?
17 MR. JOHNSON:	17 MS. PERRY:
18 Q. That's fine with me.	18 A. To June, yes.
19 CHAIRMAN:	19 GREENE, Q.C.:
20 Q. Anybody vehemently opposed to that? If you	20 Q. If we could go for a moment, please, to CA-NP-
21 are, let me know. I'm not sensitive.	21 409. You did touch on this issue to a certain
22 MS. GLYNN:	degree with Mr. Johnson, and Mr. Johnson or
23 Q. Board staff, and I think the witness would	23 the consumer advocate asked in this
appreciate a quick break before we continue on	information request as to whether you planned
25 for the next half hour.	25 or expected to update your forecast in this
Page 166	Page 168
1 (1:13 p.m.)	1 proceeding, and the answer in the RFI CA-NP-
2 CHAIRMAN:	2 409 was that you did not plan to update those
3 Q. Well, I'll defer to the witness. We'll break.	3 forecasts?
4 MS. GLYNN:	4 MS. PERRY:
5 Q. Thank you.	5 A. That is correct.
6 (RECESS)	6 GREENE, Q.C.:
7 (RESUME - 1:25 P.M.)	7 Q. And my question is, is that - does that
8 CHAIRMAN:	8 continue to be Newfoundland Power's position?
9 Q. Okay. Go ahead, Ma'am.	9 MS. PERRY:
10 MS. JOCELYN PERRY - EXAMINATION BY GREENE, Q.C.:	10 A. Yes, it is.
11 GREENE, Q.C.:	11 GREENE, Q.C.:
12 Q. Good afternoon, Ms. Perry.	Q. You're presently in the middle of year end for
13 MS. PERRY:	2012, and I expect you will be getting back to
14 A. Good afternoon.	it as soon as your evidence is over, but at
15 GREENE, Q.C.:	this point in time seeing that you must be
Q. The first area that I wanted to speak with you	well into your year end preparation for 2012,
about is your forecast that you used with	are you aware as Chief Financial Officer of
18 respect to your Application. You filed the	any material change in any of the significant
Application on September 14th of 2011, is that	inputs into your 2012 forecast which would
20 correct?	materially impact your 2012 forecast and your
21 MS. PERRY:	21 2013 and 2014 test year forecasts that have
22 A. Yes, that is correct.	been filed with this proceeding?
23 GREENE, Q.C.:	23 MS. PERRY:
24 Q. And at that time you provided a forecast of	23 MS. PERRY: 24 A. No, I'm not aware of anything material, with
	23 MS. PERRY:

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I			Page 1
I	1		rate as I referred to earlier with respect to
I	2		the company's defined benefit pension plan and
I	3		its OPEB plan, and I will also note that I'm
I	4		not sure of the impact because there's
I	5		countering impacts to the discount rate with
I	6		asset returns, but I haven't had the privilege
I	7		of actually looking at those numbers just yet.
I	8	GREE	NE, Q.C.:
I	9	Q.	So with the exception of that one issue,
	10		you're not aware of a material change in any
ı	11		other of your significant aget agragaries

- other of your significant cost categories, such as labour costs or operating costs?
- 13 MS. PERRY:
- 13 MB. I LIKK I
- 14 A. No, I'm not aware, no.
- 15 GREENE, Q.C.:
- Q. I wanted to talk to you a little bit about the 16 automatic adjustment formula, and I just 17 wanted to summarize what I understand is the 18 19 company's position to ensure that I've understood it correctly. Newfoundland Power's 20 position is that the formula should be 21 22 eliminated, not suspended for a period of 23 time, but completely eliminated?
- 24 MS. PERRY:
- 25 A. Yes, our proposal was to discontinue.

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1 GREENE, Q.C.:

- 2 Q. And I know you've talked a little bit with Mr.
- 3 Johnson about this, but again not to till that
- 4 ground again, I want to summarize what I took
- 5 from some of that discussion, the primary
- 6 reason, as I understand it, is the current
- 7 unsettled financial market conditions, is that
- 8 correct?
- 9 MS. PERRY:
- 10 A. That is correct, yes.
- 11 GREENE, Q.C.:
- 12 Q. I want to talk a little bit now about what
- happens if there is no formula. The company's
- position is throw out the formula, we would go
- back to having no formula, back to prior to
- 16 1999, I believe. In the future, if the Board
- agreed with the company's position, how would
- the ROE be changed in the future, the return
- on equity for the company?
- 20 MS. PERRY:
- 21 A. In the absence of a formula, and in line with
- Newfoundland Power's proposals, we've proposed
- that the cost of equity as determined in a
- 24 General Rate Application would actually stay
- 25 into effect until the company's next General

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Rate Application, recognizing that general

- 2 rate proceedings usually happen every two to
- 2 Take proceedings usually happen every two to
- 3 three years, so the time span is certainly not
- 4 long, and also recognizing that at any point
- 5 in time in the intervening period, the Board
- 6 can certainly call upon Newfoundland Power to
 - file cost of capital evidence if, in fact,
- 8 financial markets warranted such a change. So
- our position is that the proposed cost of
- equity in this proceeding would stick until
- the next general rate proceeding.
- 12 GREENE, Q.C.:

7

13

- Q. So in that particular case, unless the Board
- took some extraordinary action, it would
- remain within the discretion of Newfoundland
- Power as to when to apply to readjust either
- the return on equity or another or rates, so
- a general rate application, is that how I
- understood your answer?
- 20 MS. PERRY:
- 21 A. Yes, I would agree with that, but again the
- 22 Board certainly would have the authority to
- call Newfoundland Power in at any time.
- 24 GREENE, Q.C.:
- 25 Q. In the information that's been filed with your
 - Page 172
 - Application, there's an indication of a
 - revenue shortfall for the company in 2015.
- 3 MS. PERRY:

1

2

14

- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 GREENE, Q.C.:
- 6 Q. When do you is that when you currently
- 7 forecast reapplying to the Board for another
- 8 general rate proceeding?
- 9 MS. PERRY:
- 10 A. So certainly if we could go to CA-NP-398.
- 11 This RFI provides the company's five year
- financial forecast, and if you turn to page -
- well, it's called 1 of 9, but it's page 3 in
 - the document, you'll notice that, yes, in
- 15 2015, currently the company is forecasting a
- revenue shortfall of 4.4 million in 2015.
- 10 Tevenue shortran of 4.4 million in 201.
- 17 KELLY, Q.C.:
- Q. I don't think we're quite on the right page.
- 19 MS. PERRY:
- 20 A. Oh, sorry, sorry. Go on down, Chris.
- 21 KELLY, Q.C.:
- 22 Q. You got the right page, just not down far
- enough. There we go.
- 24 MS. PERRY:
- 25 A. So on line 34, you'll notice that we are

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1	projecting a revenue shortfall of 4.4 in 2015,	1		of years and the status of the capital
2	and 7.6 in 2016. So as you can respect, the	2		markets, I would say that that mechanism
3	closer you get to that time period, the more	3		wouldn't necessarily do what it was intended
4	certain we'll become of our cost and the	4		to do, and hence why we've proposed to
5	revenues and any things that have happened	5		discontinue.
6	materially within that time period. So based	6 0	3REE!	NE, Q.C.:
7	on this, yes, it would look as if we're going	7	Q.	Okay. Your concern is when the ROE should
8	to be in front of the Board in 2015, but	8		increase, and what I would like to talk about
9	certainly that observation or final	9		first, and I'm going to come to the second
10	observation and determination will be made as	10		one, when the market conditions would indicate
11	we get closer to it, and it would be premature	11		that there is a decrease, if there is no
12	right now to say that - to confirm that it	12		formula, how would that issue of concern be
13	would be 2015, because many things can change	13		addressed from the company's perspective, how
14	by the time we get to the show.	14		should it be addressed?
15 GREI	ENE, Q.C.:	15 N	ИS. PF	ERRY:
16 Q.	And in making the determination as to when to	16	A.	Well, I think it's fair to assume that the
17	file for a General Rate Application, the	17		Board has the right to call upon Newfoundland
18	company looks at its forecast revenues, it	18		Power to provide cost of capital evidence if
19	looks at the return on equity, and multiple	19		it feels that it's the right time to review
20	factors, and makes that decision and will only	20		cost of capital for Newfoundland Power at any
21	apply generally to increase rates to cover	21		time. So if it was viewed that the cost of
22	what are forecast shortfalls. Is that	22		equity was decreasing, and Newfoundland
4		1		The state of the s

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1 GREENE, Q.C.:

24 MS. PERRY:

25

2 Q. If there were to be a change in the market 3 conditions such that the market would indicate 4 that the fair return for the company is 5 actually lower than what the Board sets in its

generally the way that it occurs?

A. Yes, that's exactly how it happens.

- 6 order, do you think the Board should be
- 7 concerned about whether there's a trigger or a
- 8 mechanism to ensure that the utility comes
- 9 back to address what would be a lower rate of
- 10 return?

11 MS. PERRY:

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12 A. I agree in principle, and I guess that's the 13 essence of what the formula was providing from 14 1998 until 2008. The trouble that I see with 15 the mechanism is that it may actually do the opposite from what it should do. So we may be 16 17 in a time where a mechanism should be 18 signalling an increase in the rate of return 19 for Newfoundland Power, and the mechanism may 20 actually be signalling a decrease. So in 21 principle, I agree that a formula was meant to 22 provide for regulatory efficiencies between

test years and adjust the cost of capital for

changes in the financial markets. Given, I

guess, what has transpired in the last couple

- evaluate cost of capital. 1
- 2 GREENE, Q.C.:

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Q. So it would be left to the Board - nothing 3 would be initiated by the company, in your 4 5 perspective?

Power's equity should be decreasing as well,

then I think the Board does have ultimate

authority to call Newfoundland Power in to

- 6 MS. PERRY:
- 7 A. I would have to be there to see the magnitude, but I'm trying to envision a time where we'd 8
- come in for a lower cost of equity, but I 9
- guess it could happen. 10
- 11 GREENE, Q.C.:
- 12 Q. But generally it would not be an initiative 13 taken by the company?
- 14 MS. PERRY:
- 15 A. Right.
- 16 GREENE, O.C.:
- 17 Q. We'll come now to the formula that you have 18 suggested that it be eliminated. Again I don't want to review ground that Mr. Johnson 19 has covered, so I'll summarize my 20 21 understanding of Newfoundland Power's 22 position. I understand that the company believes that the formula worked relatively 23 well until 2008, is that correct? 24
- 25 MS. PERRY:

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1 A. That is correct.	1		and that's when the forecast cost of equity
2 GREENE, Q.C.:	2		was estimate at 8.38.
3 Q. And that the primary reason that the formula,	3		NE, Q.C.:
4 in your view, did not work properly then was	4		Yes, and as I said, I'm not going to go down
5 primarily as a result of the financial market	5		that road as to whether you believe it was
6 conditions with the abnormally low long Canada	. 6		fair or not, but you took no action, you
7 bond rates, is that correct?	7		accepted the 8.38 percent?
8 MS. PERRY:	8	MS. PE	
9 A. That is correct.	9	A.	Exactly, and then for 2012, the formula was
10 GREENE, Q.C.:	10		indicating a cost of equity of 7.85, and then
11 Q. And I also understand that with respect to	11		for '13, I believe it was 7.53, so, yes, 2012
12 2009, you did apply for a General Rate	12		and 2013.
13 Application and we had a new ROE set in 2010	13	GREEN	NE, Q.C.:
for 2010 by the Board of 9 percent?	14	Q.	And because of your view that 2012 ROE, as
15 MS. PERRY:	15		indicated by the formula, would produce an
16 A. Right, 9 percent, yes.	16		unjust or an unfair result, you applied to the
17 GREENE, Q.C.:	17		Board to suspend the operation of the formula
18 Q. I won't go through that discussion where you	18		for 2012, is that correct?
did not agree with Mr. Johnson that that was	19	MS. PE	ERRY:
fair, that you left that to others, or with	20	A.	Yes, that is correct.
respect to 2011, but generally Newfoundland	21	GREEN	NE, Q.C.:
Power did not take any action further with	22	Q.	And that was approved by the Board.
respect to 9 percent or 8.38, and you also	23	MS. PE	ERRY:
agreed, I believe, that your financial	24	A.	Yes, for 2012, yes.
25 integrity was not impacted as a result of	25	GREEN	NE, Q.C.:
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those decisions, is that correct?	1	Q.	So in light of the history of where the
2 MS. PERRY:	2		formula has worked well or been suspended when
3 A. That is correct, yes.	3		it hasn't, I guess I wanted you to explain why
4 GREENE, Q.C.:	4		you want the formula totally eliminated as
5 Q. So if the formula worked relatively well, I	5		opposed to suspended in your Application, and
6 guess the first year, in your view, that it	6		as you know, it has been suspended in other
7 didn't really work well was 2011, is that	7		jurisdictions rather than eliminated?
8 correct - for 2012, I should say.	8	MS. PEI	RRY:
9 MS. PERRY:	9	A.	Yes, and I do believe it's eliminated in
10 A. And I believe it was signalling a return in	10		Alberta. I'm not sure, but -
11 2009 that was lower than the return allowed by	11	GREEN	E, Q.C.:
the Board at that time.	12	Q.	It's been suspended in Alberta.
13 GREENE, Q.C.:	13	MS. PEI	RRY:
14 Q. And that's why you applied for the -	14	A.	Yeah, okay. With respect to the discontinuing
15 MS. PERRY:	15		the formula versus suspending the formula, I'm
16 A. Right, yes.	16		not sure there's a big difference with it. I
17 GREENE, Q.C.:	17		think that - we're not against the formula,
18 Q. One of the principle reasons why you applied?	18		we're not against a formula in specific
19 MS. PERRY:	19		financial market conditions and we've said
20 A. Right, exactly.	20		that, that we believe that a formula can work
21 GREENE, Q.C.:	21		in certain financial market conditions, but
22 Q. And then the next time would have been for	22		given that we are in current financial market

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conditions, discontinuing the formula until

financial market conditions resume to pre 2008

where a formula can certainly be considered, I

A. Well, the formula actually operated for 2011,

2012?

24 MS. PERRY:

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1	guess it's a - it's a fine line with me as to	1	MS. PE	ERRY:
2	the difference between if we suspend it until	2	A.	We certainly asked our experts their opinions,
3	then or discontinue it, because the Board can	3		and those opinions are on record. We looked
4	certainly at any point in time put it back on	4		to the one formula or the two formulas that
5	the table for future consideration. So even	5		exist in Canada, because for the most part,
6	if it were to be discontinued, the Board can	6		most of the formulas have been either
7	in its authority put the automatic adjustment	7		discontinued or suspended, but certainly we
8	formula back on the agenda to be discussed in	8		did look at the OEB formula which is
9	the future when capital market conditions are	9		substantially what's proposed in this
10	more normal.	10		proceeding, and so - so there was nothing
11 GRE	ENE, Q.C.:	11		that, I guess, rose to the surface with
12 Q.	. Coming to the formula, there have been changes	12		respect to satisfying that a valid
13	suggested to the formula. I understand	13		relationship actually exists between the two,
14	Newfoundland Power's position to be that the	14		such that any movement between test years are
15	recommended changes by two independent	15		going to be a reflection of a utility's cost
16	experts, one being Mr. MacDonald, and the	16		of capital, and I think that's where we landed
17	other being Dr. Booth, are not acceptable, is	17		at the end of the day.
18	that correct?	18	(1:45	p.m.)
19 MS. 1	PERRY:	19	GREE	NE, Q.C.:
20 A.	Yes, I think that's correct. I mean, I	20	Q.	You said that you asked your cost of capital
21	struggled with the operation of the formula	21		experts. What experts did you ask with respect
22	and trying to understand the workings of the	22		to modifications to the formula?
23	formula. I respect the fact that the two	23	MS. PE	ERRY:
24	proposed formulas, given that they are two	24	A.	That would be Ms. McShane and Dr. Vander
25	variable formulas, try to limit the impact on	25		Weide.
	Page 18	32		Page 184
1	the movement in long Canada bond yields, but		GREE	NE, Q.C.:
2	I'm still, I guess, not convinced that the	2		Dr. Vander Weide has provided evidence that he
3	formula is going to - well, given that there's	3		did not study a review of changes to the
4	a lack of a relationship between the movement	4		formula and had no position with respect to
5	in long Canada bond yields and that of a	5		the formula, that is on the record. Did he
6	utility's cost of equity, that the formula is	6		provide evidence to Newfoundland Power that is
7	actually going to signal an appropriate return	7		not part of the record?
8	on equity for Newfoundland Power, even with	8	MS. P	ERRY:
9	the two variable formula. So I tried in my	9	A.	No, just Ms. McShane provided the evidence.
10	direct to just display some of the concerns	10	GREE	NE, Q.C.:
11	that we had, given that when bond yields	11	Q.	I would like to talk to you about the changes
12	should go up in one case, the return goes in a	12		suggested by Mr. MacDonald.
13	certain direction, but it doesn't in the other	13	MS. P	ERRY:
14	formula. So it clearly shows that both of the	14	A.	Yes.
15	formulas are signalling different things. So	15	GREE	NE, Q.C.:
16	the relationship between the long Canada bond	16	Q.	And during direct evidence, you did file an
17	movements and a utility's cost of capital, I	17		exhibit called JP-1 and I wonder if we could
18	think, are mirrored in these formulas that are	18		bring that up, please, for a moment. I just
19	proposed.	19		wanted to look at this very briefly because
1	ENE, Q.C.:	20		you did take us through it and JP-1
21 Q.	Did Newfoundland Power do any of its own	21		illustrates the change, assuming the base
22	analysis with respect to possible	22		forecast, 3.04 or that is what the base
23	modifications or changes to the formula that	23		forecast is and that is what is used in the
24	it could suggest to the Board in its	24		formula to determine a fair return for 2014,
25	Application?	25		if a formula were to be used for 2014, you

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1 indicated what the current forecast is for		1 MS. PERRY:
2 2014 for the long Canada bond yields, is that		2 A. Yes, I apologize for that.
3 correct at the 2.59?		3 GREENE, Q.C.:
4 MS. PERRY:		4 Q. So we thought it would be helpful to ensure
5 A. Yes, that is correct.		5 that everyone understood this, what the
6 GREENE, Q.C.:		6 concern is, so if we can just work our way
7 Q. Which obviously is a 45 percent change and		7 through JP-1(a) and this relates back to your
8 given one of Mr. MacDonald's recommendations	,	8 direct evidence where you talked about a 6
9 it is to adjust by half of that to 50 percent		basis point change, but the 6 basis point
change, so that's why we get to 23 percent	1	change you were talking about was really an
reduction there. And then in your next, the	1	additional reduction in the forecast for the
other suggested change by Mr. MacDonald is to	1	long Canada bond yield, is that correct?
reflect a chance in the utility bond spread,		13 MS. PERRY:
is that correct?		14 A. Yes, it's the difference between the current
15 MS. PERRY:		15 consensus forecast and if that were to be
16 A. Yes, that is correct.		reduced just be 6 basis points, yes.
17 GREENE, Q.C.:		17 GREENE, Q.C.:
18 Q. And in this example there's no change in the		18 Q. Right. And I would like to point out here, at
bond spread, so the ROE does not get adjusted		the bottom of this exhibit, JP-1(a), there is
by the formula as a result of a change in the		20 a reference you'll see at the bottom with the
21 utility bond spread.		21 asterisk, to the transcript and I'd like to
22 MS. PERRY:		22 correct, we say January 13th, but it was
23 A. That is correct.		23 actually January 10th. A mistake in the date
		24 at the bottom in the footnote.
24 GREENE, Q.C.:		25 So, in this particular case when we see
25 Q. And when you therefore apply those changes,	+	•
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1 the reduction in the ROE would be .23, is that		that there is an additional change in the
the reduction in the ROE would be .23, is that correct?		2 forecast versus the base rate that would have
·		forecast versus the base rate that would have been set for 2013, the change then indicated,
2 correct?		forecast versus the base rate that would have been set for 2013, the change then indicated, as a result of the change in the long Canada
2 correct? 3 MS. PERRY:		forecast versus the base rate that would have been set for 2013, the change then indicated, as a result of the change in the long Canada bond yield is actually 51 basis points, is
2 correct? 3 MS. PERRY: 4 A. Yes, that is correct.		forecast versus the base rate that would have been set for 2013, the change then indicated, as a result of the change in the long Canada
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 2 correct? 3 MS. PERRY: 4 A. Yes, that is correct. 5 GREENE, Q.C.: 6 Q. However, Mr. MacDonald has proposed a deadbate of 25 basis points, so in effect there would 	und	forecast versus the base rate that would have been set for 2013, the change then indicated, as a result of the change in the long Canada bond yield is actually 51 basis points, is that correct? Is fifty one percent - 7 MS. PERRY:
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1	Q.	This time, however, the increase or the
2		decrease, I should say, is 26 percent which is
3		above Mr. MacDonald's deadband. So, in fact,
4		there would be a reduction in the 2014 ROE for
5		Newfoundland Power, is that correct?
6	MS. P	ERRY:
7	A.	Yes, from 8.91 to 8.65 percent, yes.
8	GREE	NE, Q.C.:
9	Q.	And I'm going to come back to your concern
10		with how it worked in that situation, but
11		before I do that, I wanted to go through your
12		other example you had used in your direct,

- other example you had used in your direct,
 which is instead of a reduction in the long
 Canada bond yield, we had an increase. So
 here we have filed exhibit JP-1(b) which is
 just to set out what you had described in your
 direct evidence. And here you are talking
- about an increase in the long Canada bond yield verses the current forecast and you used an increase of 75 basis points.

 MS. PERRY:
- 22 A. Yes.
- 22 CREENE O C

22 GREENE, Q.C.:

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- 23 GREENE, Q.C.:
- Q. So here we see when you apply that in the formula, the base forecast obviously is still

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proposed change for the--adjusting the coefficient to .5 and adding on a credit spread
adjustment. So we wanted to explore with you
the exact nature of your concern, does it
relate to the deadband? Let's start with
that.

7 MS. PERRY:

A. No, it's less about the deadband, on the operation of a deadband. It's more--I think 9 10 it comes back more to the pure relationship of the movement of long Canada bond yields and 11 that of the utility's forecast cost of equity 12 and in this particular example, you're in a 13 situation where if bond yields decrease by 6 14 basis points, by 6 basis points, the utility's 15 cost of equity reduces by 20.26 percent, so it 16 goes from 8.91 to 8.65, just by a 6 basis 17 18 point drop.

19 GREENE, Q.C.:

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Q. But when you say that, isn't it actually 51 basis points because it's a change from what the base was used in the formula, verses where the forecast is, so it's not a 6 basis point change, it's a 51 basis point change in the forecast long Canada bond rate from what was

1 used to set the base.

2 MS. PERRY:

A. The--I will take this slow because I know we're trying to explain the numbers. The example that I had given was if nothing changes in the financial market conditions, if nothing changes, then it's reasonable to assume that the long--the consensus forecast would remain the same, so there would be no change in the forecast long Canada bond yield if nothing changes in the market, so the 2. 59 should hold. The 2.59 should hold. Now compare that 2.59 to the base forecast that's in Mr. MacDonald's formula, so if the consensus forecast changes by only .06 or 6 basis points, which is not much and certainly one could argue it's no change in the financial markets, it actually would signal a reduction in our cost of equity. Nothing has changed; whereas in the second example, again, we're now saying we're going to be changing, so the long Canada bond yields are actually going to increase by .75 percent and compare that then to the base, we actually stay at 8.91. So in one case the long Canada bonds

Page 190 the same, 3.04, the current forecast, however, 1 2 has now increased from what we saw in your JP-3 1 by 75 basis points. The difference in the 4 forecast long Canada bond yields is .030 or 30 5 basis points and if the--and actually Dr. Booth made the same proposal as Mr. MacDonald 6 7 in this regard that you would adjust based on 8 half of that; in other words, we reduce the 9 co-efficient adjustment from .8 to .5, we see that the reduction there--or sorry, the 10 11 increase there would be 15 basis points, there 12 would be again no change in the utility bond 13 spread and here because there is, it's within 14 the deadband, you would have no change. So 15 instead of reducing to 8.91 to reflect that 16 increase, there would be no change, it would 17 remain at 8.91 and you would not get an 18 increase because the current forecast had gone 19 up, is that correct? 20 MS. PERRY: 21 A. That is correct, yes.

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Q. So your concern seems to be around the--is it

around the deadband of the 25 basis points and what is your position with respect to the

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1	are moving substantially from where they are
2	today, which would signal that the financial
3	markets are changing, but yet it's not doing
4	anything for the utility's cost of equity, but
5	back to the first example in JP-1(a), you have
6	a situation where very little is changing,
7	only the forecast consensus bond yield is
8	moving by 6 basis points and the utility's
9	cost of equity drops form 8.91 to 8.68. So as
10	I said, I think the words I used was it
11	appears unbalanced and the relationship
12	between the movements of long Canada bond
13	yields from where they are today are not quite
14	clear in terms of what the formulas are
15	indicating.
16	GREENE, Q.C.:
17	Q. But when you look at the formula, you apply
18	the formula, you don't look at it as to where
19	you were when you were in the last rate case,

the formula, you don't look at it as to where you were when you were in the last rate case, you look at what the current forecast is, so when you look at 1(a) you actually see a change, you see a further reduction, it's 50 basis points. So when you go, you're looking at it into the future and you're saying, okay,

we--51 basis points between what was used to 1 2 set the rates and where it is now when we're 3 forward looking. So that's the trouble that we're having when you're comparing it to a 4 5 current forecast now when the formula talks about the future and you look at the forecast 6 7 at the point in time that you're setting it, so when you look at it and you have a 51 basis 8 9 point reduction and there is a--half of that roughly goes as a reduction in your ROE and 10 11 how the formula works to me it did not seem unreasonable. 12

13 MS. PERRY:

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14 A. So I've spent a bit of time on this, just 15 trying to figure out the operation of the formula and what I deduced is the consensus 16 17 forecast for long Canada bonds that we're using in the formula, the 2.59, is a forward 18 19 looking estimate over a 30 year long Canada bond yield. The basis upon which cost of 20 21 equity is determined in a rate proceeding is a 22 forward looking long Canada bond yield. The two are done under different methods and there 23 24 are two different numbers that will come out 25 of that, so Mr. MacDonald is saying that the

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1 forward looking is 3.04, the consensus
2 forecast is saying 3.--2.59. I think this is
3 exactly my point. I believe the parameters in
4 the formula are not necessarily apples and
5 apples.
6 GREENE, Q.C.:
7 Q. Okay.
8 MS. PERRY:

A. Because if financial market conditions do not 10 change from where they are today, it is quite reasonable to assume that the consensus 11 forecast for long Canada bond yields will 12 remain at 2.59 and that number will be 13 compared to 3.04, right? And that then will 14 precipitate a decrease in Newfoundland Power's 15 cost of equity when there's been no change in 16 the market and I guess that's probably the 17 flaw that I see in the formula. 18

19 GREENE, Q.C.:

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Q. So we've already had a discussion earlier with Mr. Johnson that both Ontario and in Quebec they did adjust the formula by both the 50 percent--adjusting the co-efficient adjustment to .5 and adding the utility credit spread, so you have expressed your view that that would

there's a 50 basis point spread between what

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we--51 basis points between what was used to

you have expressed your view that that would

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not be acceptable to Newfoundland Power, to

the company, as proposed changes to the formula even though it has been adopted in other jurisdictions?

5 MS. PERRY:

A. Yes, that's our position. The 50 percent certainly is a lower co-efficient than the 80 percent, so the relationship between long Canada bond yields and the utility's cost of equity is reduced in the formula, but I guess the essence of what is that relationship is still not clear, I guess, to us and it is possible that this formula could produce an unfair return for Newfoundland Power and as much as we enjoy coming back here to debate cost of capital, you know, to look forward and to think about having to file again in the fall, based on this analysis right here, it's quite possible that we could very well have to do that. So I think from our perspective we haven't been convinced that the relationship is there and that the relationship is going to hold such that the formula actually yields a fair return, and so that's why we've just not--we proposed to not go forward with the

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Page 197		Page 199
1 formula.	1	change in utility's cost of capital and there
2 GREENE, Q.C.:	2	was 100 basis points change, which I would
3 Q. With respect to another proposal of Mr.	3	consider material, that having a trigger to
4 MacDonald you did not comment on it, the first	4	consider a rate case could be plausible. I'm
5 recommendation, was that there should be a	5	just trying to think, I guess, of a situation
6 trigger that if the formula produced a	6	where it's logical that let's say the cost of
7 material change of 100 basis points up or	7	equity is increasing and it has increased
8 down, that that would be material enough that	8	across the country in that would we ever be in
9 a general rate application should be		a situation where we're having to file cost of
triggered, do you agree with that		capital when there's no real concern that
recommendation? It would address the concern		Newfoundland Power's cost of capital is out of
we talked about earlier if the capital market		step, so given I'm not sure what the formula
conditions change so that the ROE should be		would produce, I'm just not sure that we would
14 reduced.		or would not be out of step with appropriate
15 MS. PERRY:		cost of equities.
16 A. I suspect that it's quite possible we would be	16 GREEN	- I
in or called in before that 100 basis point		And I guess we're not concerned so much about
should occur, but I don't have any principle		the cost of equity, the markets indicating an
problem, I guess with that 100 basis points.		increase because obviously the utility then
20 GREENE, Q.C.:		probably would be back looking for the
1		increase. The concern would be if the cost of
1		
you think it should be lower, say 50 or 75		equity is actually declining in the
23 basis points?		marketplace and a formula would indicate that
24 MS. PERRY:		your ROE should be lower than what was last
25 A. I think given that I'm not convinced that a	25	allowed, do you think a trigger then would be
Page 198		Page 200
Page 198 1 formula is actually the way to proceed in	1	Page 200 helpful or that you would know when the Board
_		<u> </u>
1 formula is actually the way to proceed in		helpful or that you would know when the Board would expect you to come back?
1 formula is actually the way to proceed in 2 terms of estimating the cost of capital, I	2 3 MS. PE	helpful or that you would know when the Board would expect you to come back?
formula is actually the way to proceed in terms of estimating the cost of capital, I haven't actually put my mind around that if	2 3 MS. PE 4 A.	helpful or that you would know when the Board would expect you to come back? ERRY:
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Ja	January 15, 2015					
		Page				
1	A.	If I could explain the situation today or				
2		based on the previous formula, where we're				
3		actually regulated by rate of return on rate				
4		base, the way the formula operates today is				
5		that our return on the forecast cost of equity				
6		can change. That's then applied to the range				
7		of return on rate base and unless we fall				
8		outside the range of return on rate base,				
9		there may or may not be a change in custome				
10		rates because of the change in the cost of				
11		equity. So today we currently do have that				
12		deadband within the range of return on rate				
13		base. So certainly not against the -				
14	GREE	NE, Q.C.:				
15	Q.	So there is a materiality trigger I will call				
١.,		2, 4 , 11 24.0				

it that you would agree with? 16

17 MS. PERRY:

18 A. Yeah, and I believe it's around 37 basis 19 points today.

20 GREENE, Q.C.:

21 Q. Okay. Sorry, I'm getting a question from the 22 back of the room with -- again, I'll ask --

the question is phrased in terms of "if there 23

is no formula on a go-forward basis so the 24 Board accepts Newfoundland Power's application 25

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in that regard and the market rates were 1 2 declining, would regulatory lag be a problem for the Board?" 3

4 MS. PERRY:

A. Can you repeat that, Ms. Greene? Sorry.

6 GREENE, O.C.:

Q. We're talking about the situation where we 7 will have no formula on a go-forward basis and 8 we're talking about when the market rates are 9 declining, wouldn't a regulatory lag be a 10 11 problem for the Board if we don't have a formula? That by the time that the Board 12 13 actually determined that you would come in, 14 there would be a lag because -

15 MS. PERRY:

A. Yeah, I-16

17 GREENE, Q.C.:

Q. It's a question of the lag and the impact that 18 19 has.

20 MS. PERRY:

21 A. I think that would exist today. If we were to 22 base the formula upon a consensus forecast in November, as we do today, by the time we get 23 24 to November, as we did in 2012, we were subject to regulatory lag because by the time 25

201 Page 203 we filed and by the time we received the

2 order, we were midway through 2012. So if we

had a formula that produced an unfair return 3 4

or a formula that precipitated a change, it's

probably not a lot different than where we are 5

today. 6

7 GREENE, Q.C.:

Q. So you don't see a difference in the timing?

9 MS. PERRY:

A. Not right now I don't, no.

11 GREENE, O.C.:

12 Q. Okay. Moving on to another topic which is deferral accounts. You are proposing in this 13 application a number of deferral accounts that 14 have a three-year recovery period and I won't 15 go through each of those, but they're clearly 16 laid out in your application. So with a 17 three-year recovery rate, they will generally 18 be recovered at the end of 2015. Is that 19

correct? 20

22 A. That is correct, yes.

23 GREENE, Q.C.:

21 MS. PERRY:

Q. So if Newfoundland Power doesn't file a 24 general rate proceeding to address rates for 25

Page 204 2015, what happens with the amount that's now 1

2 included in the revenue requirement to recover the amounts required for those deferral 3

accounts? 4

5 MS. PERRY:

A. Well, I think anytime where we're amortizing 6 7 certain accounts, a part of how we -- or when we determine the amortization period, the 8 proposed amortization period, we do look at 9 the impact that that's going to have on us 10

11 over a certain period of time because it

wouldn't be very strategic to amortize it all 12 in one year and then the next year be left 13

with a significant revenue shortfall or in the 14

opposite direction. So when I look at CA-NP-15

398, which is our five-year forecast, the 16

17 deferrals are obviously included in that forecast that we presented and when you look 18

out to 2016, we're currently estimating an

19 over seven million dollar shortfall. 20

21 GREENE, O.C.:

Q. Would you like to bring that up? 22

23 MS. PERRY:

24 A. We certainly can, yes. 7.6 million dollar 25 shortfall. And so even with those deferrals

Jar	nuary 15, 2013 Multi	i-Page TM		NL Power Inc. 2013 GRA
	Page 205			Page 207
1	included in the revenue requirement,	1		with the expiring of those amortizations,
2	Newfoundland Power is projecting a 7.6 million	2		we're still in a revenue shortfall position.
3	dollar shortfall. So while that's in revenue	3		I certainly think it's a consideration of the
4	requirement, we are obviously experiencing	4		Board.
5	some other cost increases because that's just	5	GREE	NE, Q.C.:
6	one of our costs, and in total, we're in a	6	Q.	I wanted to next touch briefly on credit
7	shortfall position. So without the deferrals,	7		metrics. I did have some questions that have
8	the amortization of the deferrals included in	8		been addressed by Mr. Johnson and again, just
9	rates, that shortfall would be larger than	9		to summarize what I understand your position
10	that. So I think, again as we get closer to	10		is with Mr. Johnson. I believe you
11	the '15 and '16, we will be making those	11		acknowledge that with both the proposed rates
12	observations about whether or not we can	12		for 2013 and '14 and your existing rates, you
13	actually guide our way through '15, but it's	13		would be within the range established and he
14	looking highly likely that we will be in here	14		took you through the Moody's range with
15	for '16.	15		respect to debt ratings. Is that correct?
16	GREENE, Q.C.:	16	MS. PI	ERRY:
17	Q. So if you're not back in '16, what happens is	17	A.	Yes, that is correct.
18	you will still be collecting from customers	18	GREE	NE, Q.C.:
19	the amounts that are included in your test	19	Q.	I believe you indicated you would be at the
20	year revenue requirement for the deferral	20		low end of the range, but still within the
21	accounts and it will part of the mix and used	21		range that Moody's has allowed for your
22	to offset other increases in costs because you	22		current credit rating. Is that correct? So
23	will have already recovered what you should	23		it's unlikely you would be downgraded?
24	have recovered for those costs, such as the	24	MS. PI	ERRY:
25	hearing cost, for example? Is that correct?	25	A.	So sorry, Ms. Greene, and that's for which

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1 MS. PERRY:

2 A. And that's a fair observation, and that's certainly consistent with how previous 3 amortizations have been included in the past, 4 from past rate orders, yes. 5

6 GREENE, Q.C.:

7 Q. Have you considered whether there should be 8 some form of mechanism or process put in place 9 to deal with the closure of deferral accounts 10 other than a general rate application? 11 MS. PERRY:

25

12 A. No, and the biggest reason is I believe the 13 shortfall that we're actually looking at, it's 14 one of many of our costs and right now it looks as if we're not going to be in a 15 position to have the opportunity to earn our 16 17 return, so no, we didn't bring forward any proposal with respect to the end of the 18 19 amortization period, those deferrals. And I do believe that it's worthy for the Board to 20 21 consider the impact of the end of the 22 amortization period, but in the context of what we're looking at on CA-NP-398, I think 23 24 it's -- that it's fair that Newfoundland

particular year? 1

2 GREENE, Q.C.:

3 Q. When you look at the current existing rates, which has incorporated 8.38 percent, and then 4 5 your proposed, particularly 2012, 2013 and even Mr. Johnson took you to 2014. We can 6 7 take -- call up your Exhibit 3, if you like.

8 MS. PERRY:

9 A. Yeah. No, I will agree that on Exhibit 3, if we could go to Exhibit 3, and looking at 2012, 10 11 which is our current -- was that the question, Ms. Greene, the 2012 or is it 2013? 12 13 GREENE, Q.C.: 14 Q. It's also actually '13 and '14.

A. Oh, '13 and '14.

17 GREENE, Q.C.:

15 MS. PERRY:

18 Q. I understand where Mr. Johnson and you had a 19 discussion that you also -- that you 20 acknowledge that even for '13 and '14, you're 21 pretty much still within the range, albeit at 22 the low end of the range with respect to the existing rates? 23 24 MS. PERRY:

25

A. So in terms of what Moody's has indicated that

Power's costs are increasing and that even

January 15, 2013 Page 209 supports the rating is a CFO to interest, 1 2 which is on line 38, of low three times. So we're at three. And then the CFO to debt of 3 15 to 17. So we're actually below on that one 4 5 metric. 6 GREENE, O.C.: Q. And I believe Mr. Johnson took you to where 7 they said low teens and there was a discussion 8 as to whether 13 was a low teen. 10 MS. PERRY: A. Fair. 11 12 GREENE, Q.C.: Q. And what my question is: you expressed a concern about what it meant to be at the low 14 end of the range, and I wanted you to explain 15 16 what is the significance for you and why it is of concern to you. If you're still within the 17

20 (2:15 p.m.)

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21 MS. PERRY:

22 A. So when you look at the metrics, Moody's has indicated that we are already lower than our 23 peers and to support the metrics -- to support 24 the credit rating, sorry, it's low threes. 25

the low end of the range?

range, why are you concerned that you are at

Page 210

We're at three. And it's between 15 and 17 and we're actually below. So in terms of the ranges that they've indicated to support the rating, we're moving one side. We're very close to the bottom. But that's combined with the fact that Newfoundland Power is, in this instance, earning a regulated return on equity of 6.89 percent. So, I look at metrics, but then I look at other observations of the Board, which I would have to then relay to the credit rating agencies, and I look at this situation of saying is earning a 6.89 percent allowed return on equity something that will precipitate a reevaluation by Moody's about the regulatory support in this jurisdiction, given that the 6.89 is considerably below -considerably below the returns in Canada in

particular. So that combined with the metrics, I mean, failing metrics, declining metrics are not something that you want to be coming out of a general rate proceeding with. You know, when we left here the last time, in 2009 for 2010, these metrics were more like the interest coverage which is on line 37, 2.4,

Page 211 2.5 range. The CFO to interest was at 3.4 and

1 the CFO to debt was at 17.6. And so to be 2

showing some things -- and those are within 3

the range as indicated by Moody's for this 4

rating. So to be declining metrics with a 5

6.89 percent regulated return on equity, I 6 would have concerns that they would view that 7

8 as a reason to reevaluate our credit.

9 GREENE, O.C.:

10 Q. Why do you use credit metrics? I probably should have started with that question first. 11

Why do we talk about credit metrics? 12

13 MS. PERRY:

14 A. So bond holders or credit rating agencies are trying to understand and display the risk for 15 16 a bond holder. So cash flows seem to be the trump with respect to how much cash flows are 17 available to pay the fixed cost of the 18 utility, and so credit rating agencies apply 19 credit metrics as guidance where companies 20 should be for certain ratings. DBRS are not 21 as specific as Moody's, but even DBRS will 22 monitor and report our credit metrics, because 23 I think it's the financial benchmark as to how 24 we are compared to others, to display the 25

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amount of cash flow we have to cover off the 1 2 interest costs. So they're important because

they're important to the debt rating agencies. 3

4 GREENE, O.C.:

5 Q. And they measure your financial performance which is then used by the credit rating 6

7 agencies to determine what your credit rating

8 is for debt?

9 MS. PERRY:

A. Yes, absolutely.

11 GREENE, Q.C.:

Q. Okay. The last area of questioning relate to 12 a couple of -- well, first, a regulatory 13

reporting matter. Right now, Newfoundland 14

Power files annually a curtailable service 15

option report and a conservation demand 16 management report as part of the requirements 17

coming from Order No. P.U. 7 from 1996 to 18

19 1997. Is that correct, Ms. Perry?

20 MS. PERRY:

A. That is correct, yes.

22 GREENE, Q.C.:

Q. Does Newfoundland Power see any regulatory 23 efficiency with respect to combining both of 24 25 those reports into one report under

Page 213 1 conservation demand management? 2 MS. PFERY. 3 A. Yes, I would say that that would be in the direction of regulatory efficiency and we've booked at that and we would have no problem with combining those two reports. 7 GREENE, Q.C.: 8 Q. The last topic that I wanted to speak about is with respect to the rural subsidy and perhaps in indicate or first explain to people what is the rural subsidy or rural deficit? 12 the rural subsidy or rural deficit? 13 MS. PERRY: 14 A. Well, certainly the rural deficit is not new and not totally unique to Newfoundland, but it substantially refers to the cost of providing electricity is out of syne with the revenue telectricity is out of syne with the revenue that a discussions and even a rural rate review as to the appropriateness of how this subsidy should to be handled via the government because the hough a subsidy or would it be handled via the government because the hough a subsidy or would it be included in a Newfoundland, the interconnected for Newfoundland (by company) and the property of the control of the property of the pro	January 15, 2015	Mulu-Pa	age NL Power Inc. 2015 GRA
1 CRLENE Q.C. 2 Q. And - 3 MS. PERRY: 4 A. SPERRY: 4 A. SPERRY: 4 A. SPERRY: 4 A. SPERRY: 5 A. Yes. 1 would say that that would be in the direction of regulatory efficiency and we've 5 looked at that and we would have no problem 6 with combining those two reports. 7 GREEME, Q.C. 8 Q. The last topic that I wanted to speak about is 9 with respect to the rural subsidy and perhaps 10 — or rural affeir. 1 wonder if you could 11 inclicate or first explain to people what is 2 the rural subsidy or rural deficit is not new 1 and not totally unique to Newfoundland, but it 1 substantially refers to the cost of providing 1 electricity to the more remote places on the 18 Island and the cost to provide that 19 deterricity to the more remote places on the 18 Island and the cost to provide that 19 deterricity to the more remote places on the 18 Island and the cost to provide that 19 deterricity to the more remote places on the 18 Island and the cost to provide that 19 deterricity to the more areas. 11 And I believe there was certainly substantial 2 discussions and even a rural rate review as to 23 discussions and even a rural rate review as to 23 discussions and even a rural rate review as to 23 discussions and even a rural rate review as to 23 discussions and even a rural rate review as to 24 discussions and even a rural rate review as to 25 discussions and even a rural rate review as to 25 discussions and even a rural rate review as to 25 discussions and even a rural rate review as to 25 discussions and even a rural rate review as to 25 discussions and even a rural rate review as to 25 discussions and even a rural rate review as to 25 discussions and even a rural rate review as to 25 discussions and even a rural rate review as to 25 discussions and even a rural rate review as to 25 discussions and even a rural rate review as to 25 discussions and even a rural rate review as to 25 discussions and even a rural rate review as to 25 d		Page 213	Page 215
2 M. PERRY: 3 A. Yes, I would say that that would be in the 4 direction of regulatory efficiency and we've 5 looked at that and we would have no problem with combining those two reports. 7 GREENE, Q.C.: 8 Q. The last topic that I wanted to speak about is 9 with respect to the rural subsidy and perhaps 10 indicate or first explain to people what is 12 the rural subsidy or rural deficit. I wonder if you could 11 indicate or first explain to people what is 12 the rural subsidy or rural deficit is not new 14 a. Well, certainly the rural deficit is not new 15 and not totally unique to Newfoundland, but it 16 substantially refers to the cost of providing 17 electricity is out of sync with the revenue 19 that you're getting from those remote areas. 21 And I believe there was certainly substantial 22 discussions and even a rural rate review as to 23 the appropriateness of how this subsidy should 24 be handled or this deficit should be handled. 25 Should it be handled via the government 26 Newfoundland Power's rates and that there 3 would be uniform rates across the Island, for 4 the most part. And from my reading as to what 5 happened back in 1995 and onwards is that ship 6 has sailed with respect to the shortfalls that we're 8 seeing in those areas, which are the isolated 10 in Labrador and I believe is L'ance au Loup. 11 was wondering if we could bring up PUB NP 49. 12 GREENE, Q.C. 13 Q. Okay. So, the Board ask an RF1 on this and I 14 was wondering if we could bring up PUB NP 49. 15 So, these are customers of Newfoundland Hydro 16 - 17 MS. PIERRY: 18 A. Yes. 19 Q. Chay. And to not pay the full cost of service. 20 Q that do not pay the full cost of service. 21 and that shortfall or subsidy is in, as a 22 matter of policy, paid for by all other 23 customers, is that correct? 24 MS. PERRY: 25 A. Sorry, ight, Newfoundland Power's customers, of Sex Sorry, ight, now foundland Power's customers, of Sex Perky. 21 M. S. PERRY: 22 A. And J. Sorry, ight, now foundland Power's customers, of Sex Ferky. 24 A. Sorry, ight, now	1 conservation demand management?	1	GREENE, Q.C.
4 A. Sorry, it's not paid by the Industrial constant and we would have no problem with combining those two reports. 7 GRHENE, Q.C.: 8 Q. The last topic that I wanted to speak about is with respect to the rural subsidy and perhaps or rural deficit. I wonder if you could indicate or first explain to people what is the rural subsidy or rural deficit? 12 the rural subsidy or rural deficit is not new and not totally unique to Newfoundland, but it substantially refers to the cost of providing electricity to the more remote places on the Is Island and the cost to provide that electricity is out of sync with the revenue that you're getting from those remote areas. 1 And I believe there was certainly substantial discussions and even a rural rate review as to the appropriateness of how this subsidy should be handled or this deficit should be handled. Should it be handled via the government Newfoundland Power's rates and that there would be uniform rates across the Island, for the most part. And from my reading as to what happened back in 1995 and onwards is that ship has sailed with respect to government policy with respect to the shortfalls that we're see secing in those areas, which are the isolated or minute of the control of the table was what was used in Hydro's 2007 the table was what was used in Hydro's 2007 the table was what was used in Hydro's 2007 with respect to the shortfalls that we're see secing in those areas, which are the isolated communities in Newfoundland, the interconnected for Newfoundland Hydro 12 (REEENE, Q.C.) 7 Q. Okay. So, the Board ask an RFI on this and I was wondering if we could bring up PUB NP 49. So, these are customers of Newfoundland Hydro 12 (REEENE, Q.C.) Q that do not pay the full cost of service, and that shortfall or subsidy is in, as a matter of pol		2	Q. And -
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			A. In total the subsidy for 2011 was 49 million

Page 217 Page 219 of which Newfoundland power pays around 90 Upon conclusion at 2:25 p.m. 1 2 percent of the deficit; Labrador Interconnected pays the remaining ten. And my 3 understanding is from that report that was 4 5 filed in April by Hydro that the rural deficit is rising to 66 million in 2013. 6 7 GREENE, O.C. 8 Q. So, if Hydro were to file a rate case in 2013 with a two thousand (sic.) test year, the 9 amount of the rural subsidy would be 66 10 million, based on the forecast that they have 11 filed. 12 13 MS. PERRY: A. We take about 90 percent of that, so around 60 14 million and that 60 million would translate 15 into around 8.5 percent of our rates. 16 17 GREENE, Q.C. Q. And you would pass that on when you do your 18 19 flow through through the energy supply costs after Hdyro's rate case, is that correct? 20 21 MS. PERRY: 22 A. Yes, that is correct. 23 GREENE, O.C. 24 Q. And you just mentioned, I believe, that that 25 roughly then would increase the percentage of Page 218 Page 220 1 a domestic customer from the 6.1 percent to 1 CERTIFICATE 8.5 percent, is that correct? 2 2 I, Judy Moss, do hereby that the foregoing is 3 MS. PERRY: 3 a true and correct transcript of a hearing in the A. Yes, the 6.1 percent here is based o2011 4 matter of Newfoundland Power Inc.'s General Rate revenues. So that 6.1, if you were to convert 5 Application heard on the 15th day of January, 2013 5 6 that into 2013's proposed revenue, it is 6 at the offices of the Board of Commissioners of 7 7 Public Utilities, St. John's, Newfoundland and around 5 percent because revenue is higher, so the percentage of the deficit to the revenue 8 8 Labrador and was transcribed by me to the best of 9 is lower. So, for comparing like for like, 9 my ability by means of a sound apparatus. 10 it's basically from five to about 8 1/2 10 Dated at St. John's, NL this 11 percent. 11 14th day of January, 2013 12 Judy Moss 12 GREENE, Q.C. 13 Discoveries Unlimited Inc. 13 Q. Okay. And those conclude my questions for Ms. 14 Perry. Thank you, Ms. Perry. 15 MS. PERRY: A. Thank you. 16 17 CHAIRMAN: 18 Q. So, any questions here? Yes, we're going to 19 hold off until you finish off tomorrow, Mr. 20 Johnson. 21 MR. JOHNSON: 22 O. Sure. 23 CHAIRMAN: 24 Q. So, we're back at 9:00 now, are we? Okay, 25 we'll adjourn.

NL Power Inc. 2013 GRA

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